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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-105
Monday
1 June 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was hospitalized in Amman on 1 June for "medical tests," according to a senior PLO official cited by AFP. A "reliable" Palestinian source had earlier announced 'Arafat's departure for Baghdad in a bid to conceal the leader's hospitalization in Jordan, according to analysts cited by the press agency.

Israel

Two members of a "terrorist" squad landed on the beach at Elat approximately 0645 local time 30 May, according to Jerusalem radio. The men, said to members of a fundamentalist Islamic group, were said to have swum to Elat from the Jordanian port city of al-'Aqabah in diving gear, carrying weapons in sealed cylinders. Two others reportedly drowned en route. The Arabs killed one security guard before an IDF patrol killed one of them and captured the other. Jerusalem radio reported that Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq blamed Jordan for the incident, "because the terrorists had set out from inside Jordanian territory." Meanwhile, Labor has promised to halt the establishment of new settlements immediately and not expand existing ones, except for those in the Jerusalem area and the Jordan Rift Valley, HA'ARETZ reported. According to HA'ARETZ, the Labor platform promises territorial compromise in all sectors, including the Golan Heights, and includes a commitment to implement autonomy within "the shortest possible time." In a separate development, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for the murders of Rabbi Shim'on Biran from Kfar Darom and high school student Helena Rapp from Bat Yam, reports Jerusalem radio. According to the radio report the organization wrote notices claiming responsibility for the two murders on the walls of houses in Gaza.

Jordan

Authorities disputed the Israeli account of a terrorist incident in the Israel coastal city of Elat, in which intruders allegedly swam into Israel from Jordan's al-'Aqabah port. Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said there is "no conclusive evidence" that the attackers' journey began from Jordan, noting that the borders of several countries converge at al-'Aqabah.

Afghanistan

On 29 May the plane carrying interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi was struck by antiaircraft or rocket fire. Kabul Radio reported that "one pilot received minor injuries; the rest of the passengers, including esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, are all safe and sound." AFP quoted Mojaddedi as saying "I am not 100 percent sure, but there is a great possibility that Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Khalqi forces shot my plane." Hekmatyar rejected Mojaddedi's accusation as "baseless," the press agency added.

Iraq

The Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution cited Iraqi Army officers as saying that the regime has several containers of chemical material as well as barrels of napalm in the southern marshlands. According to the report the officers said the government has deployed these chemical weapons against the marshland inhabitants.

Libya

Official Egyptian sources have revealed to London MBC TV a new plan for handing over the two Lockerbie suspects to Scotland to face trial. The report says new Libyan laws will be passed providing for the surrender of the two suspects in a manner circumventing Article 493 of the Libyan Procedures Law, which specifies rules for turning over wanted individuals.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head on Libya, Iraq, Lebanon

JN2805105592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1937 GMT 27 May 92

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid by Chief Editor Rashid Fayid in Paris; date not given—recorded; interview carried within the "Today's Guest" program]

[Text] [Fayid] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, during your visit to Paris and your meetings with French officials, you have discussed issues pertaining to Euro-Arab dialogue, the Libyan crisis, and the situation in Lebanon. Concerning the Euro-Arab dialogue, do you believe that it will yield fruit at this stage, particularly in the absence of Arab solidarity?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that the Euro-Arab dialogue is in the interest of both parties. We must understand that it is in the interest of the Arabs and the Europeans to meet. To clarify this point, let me say that it is a two-way street and not a one-way road. The Arabs actually welcome this dialogue even if there are some differences in viewpoints. In fact, I consider the French initiative of December 1989, which was made here in Paris and which called for resuming the Euro-Arab dialogue on a political level in the presence of the foreign ministers of the 21 Arab states and the 12 European states, a push forward that we must continue. Currently, there are contacts on the level of technical committees. Of course, there are some problems. I hope that we will be able to overcome them in order to allow the Euro-Arab dialogue to yield its fruits, which are certainly in the interest of both sides. As long as we are in France and talking about France's role, I say that its role is a major one. It is basically a Mediterranean state, it has its own interests in the region, and it is close to the Arab world. So I can say that in light of its position toward the Arab world, France can urge Europe to reach an agreement between the two sides.

[Fayid] You have noticed something different in the French position toward the Libyan crisis. Do you think that France can play a role in curbing the enthusiasm of the U.S. and British positions?

['Abd-al-Majid] As I have said, the French position differs from the U.S. and British positions. I have explained this on more than one occasion. I believe that since the French position does not call for extraditing the suspects, it is closer to the rules of international law than the U.S. or British positions. The U.S. and British positions call for extraditing the suspects, but the French position does not; it calls for investigation. I have said that we support this investigation and that request. We believe that the request for extraditing the suspects violates the rules of international law. There is no state which extradites its nationals to a party that wants to interrogate, to try, to condemn, and to sentence them. How can one party be a judge and an adversary at the same time. I want someone to explain to me that this is something which is acceptable and recognized by international law. Libya says: Let us go to a neutral place. This means that neither Libya nor the British nor the Americans should try them. Is this not the solution? The one that should try them is a neutral party; a neutral party where you can find a French judge, a British judge, an American judge, and a Libyan judge. Let a number of neutral judges from various states participate in the investigation, say five judges. This means a court of nine judges to try the suspects. If this court condemns them, then Libya will be responsible. Libya has said that if these suspects are condemned, then it will pay compensation. But how can Libya extradite them when its laws do not allow for this. If the Libyan laws are amended and allow for their extradition, then there would be no problem. As long as the case continues as it is, however, it is very difficult to imagine that Libya will extradite them.

[Fayid] Have you made a proposal to this effect?

['Abd-al-Majid] No, I have not made any proposal. During the talks, we discussed this issue, as well as others. This issue was also discussed with the British foreign secretary during his visit to Cairo. Of course, they exchange information and, consequently, they are fully aware of the Arab and Libyan positions. The Arab position is in solidarity with Libya on this issue.

[Fayid] During the past few days, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has spoken about the possibility of holding a meeting between Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari and [British Foreign Secretary] Douglas Hurd. Do you believe that this meeting will improve the situation?

['Abd-al-Majid] I hope so. I also hope that this meeting will take place. Libya is actually asking for dialogue with the parties concerned. This dialogue is something desirable. If a certain party views this dialogue as a waste of time, then I would say that the dialogue is inactive. At least let this meeting take place. Of course I have heard about this, and I hope that it will take place.

[Text] [Fayid] The frequent Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon have undoubtedly put the Lebanese issue on the forefront of priorities. Is there any expected Arab action in this regard?

['Abd-al-Majid] Of course, if the Lebanese Government requests an Arab League Council meeting, then the Arab League Council will respond immediately. It seems to me, however, that there are diplomatic contacts under way on all levels. Within the framework of my current visit to France, I explained my viewpoint, which is, of course, in line with the Arab view. We hope that France will play a role in putting an end to the Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon.

[Fayid] The Arab situation is currently less tense than before. There have been some voices, such as that of United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid, which see a need to reactivate Arab solidarity, to ease differences, and to reach a formula for Arab cooperation. As an Arab League secretary general, have you felt that there is an Arab approach for achieving better solidarity?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, this spirit does exist. In fact, I appreciate Shaykh Zayid's stand. I consider this to be a very good sign. Arab solidarity is required, reunion is required, and healing the rift is required. Our divisions weaken us. It is true that there are differences in views; however, we can talk. As they say, differences should not lead to hostilities. I truly applaud this position. I hope that we will be able to overcome all the repercussions of the Gulf crisis.

[Fayid] Do you believe that Iraq's recent commitment to implementing UN Security Council resolutions encourages such an approach?

['Abd-al-Majid] The UN Security Council resolutions are binding, and Iraq has accepted them in full. It is committed to them. As long as Iraq will implement them, then all the restrictions imposed on it should be lifted. It has been said that I acted on commercial grounds by linking the issue of Kuwaiti captives with that of alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering. This linkage has not taken place at all. It was a reply to a REUTER question to the effect that we view the Gulf crisis on humanitarian grounds and that we should take action to secure the return of the Kuwaiti captives and detainees to their country, and that Iraq should release them. There has also been some talk about the Iraqi people's suffering, and that this has nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolutions. Iraq has accepted the UN Security Council resolutions and is implementing them. I believe that our humanitarian duty necessitates that we consider the fact that a large number of Iraqis—women, children, and the elderly—are being deprived of food and medicine, particularly those people from the toiling classes. This is not at all a linkage between the two issues. We have been talking about this issue for more than five months at Arab League meetings. The reason was a purely humanitarian one. The Kuwaiti captives should return to their country. Iraq's concern about implementing the UN Security Council resolutions should contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

[Fayid] Is there any practical step by the Arab League to encourage Iraq to release the Kuwaiti captives?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, this has actually taken place. Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah Adam visited Iraq earlier, in accordance with an agreement with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti governments, and spent 18 days there where he met with a number of captives. We have recently received from Kuwait a list of the names of the captives who are still present in Iraq.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With Arab League Delegates

NC3105131092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met the permanent delegates to the Arab League. General secretaries and assistants also attended. They discussed the situation in the Arab world, primarily; the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon; and Arab efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis and latest developments in this issue to reach a solution in line with international law, preserving Libya's sovereignty. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the permanent envoys on his visit to France, on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, and on means of promoting Arab-French ties. They also discussed developments in Somalia and Arab-African relations.

Arab League Official on 'Wave' of Settlements

NC2505164692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Farra, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestine affairs, has asserted that Israeli settlement activity is spreading terribly in the occupied Arab territories, both by expanding existing settlements and by building new ones. He said that the occupation authorities believe that the settlements establish reality on the ground so it becomes an irreversible fact.

At a news conference today, al-Farra said the occupied territories today are witnessing a wave of settlement of Russian and Ethiopian Jews, adding that Israeli occupation authorities have seized 80 percent of the occupied territories.

He pointed out that the occupation authorities are confiscating the land, building settlements, and striking at the Palestinian economy with a view to perpetuating the Israeli military occupation. He said this is compatible with the stand of the ruling Likud Bloc and Yitzhaq Shamir, who believes that what lies between the [Mediterranean] sea and the [Jordan] river is under Israeli sovereignty.

Al-Farra said that, according to Israeli Foreign Ministry reports, 250 new settlements have been built in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so far. He added that Israel aims to erect 165 settlements to accommodate 1,001,300 immigrants in the coming years.

He explained that the greater Jerusalem project aims to increase the number of Jews to 750,000 in 1995 and to 1 million in the year 2010. He noted that there is another project called "The Seven-Star Project," which is a three-stage plan, the first stage of which ends in 1995 and the second and third in 2005. He said that this plan aims to develop settlements up to the "Green Line" [not further specified] and includes building a road with no match in the world that bears the number 6 and is 120 meters wide [as received]. The road, he added, will have no exit or entry points so Palestinian farmers cannot use it to service their farms.

Al-Farra pointed out that the occupied Syrian Golan now contains 28 settlements, which Israel plans to increase to 130 in the coming years. He emphasized that the occupation authorities' arbitrary measures are a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and undermine the bases of the peace negotiations.

He warned that continuing Israeli settlement of the occupied Arab territories means the imposition of a different kind of peace—a fait accompli peace—and he stressed that this is rejected both at official and public levels. He added that the Israeli settlement process has reached a point where it poses a major obstacle to the peace process.

Dr. al-Farra called for backing joint Arab action to give it influence in international forums. Concluding his news conference, the Arab official urged the international community to implement the rules of justice and human rights in the Middle East as elsewhere in the world.

Tunis Paper—Al-Qadhdhafi To 'Cancel' Green Book

NC3005111892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Tunis, 30 May (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi plans to cancel the Green Book from which Libya has derived its legislation and political, economic, cultural, and social programs since 1977.

This was reported today by Tunisian newspaper AKHBAR AL- JUMHURIYAH, citing informed sources. The paper adds that the Libyan Jamahiriyah started to move away from the Green Book theories following a series of meetings held by the popular committees over the past few days, discussing liberating prices, expanding the banking system, and abolishing the barter system, which failed to produce positive results.

The paper cites observers in Libya as saying that Col. al-Qadhdhafi plans to make comprehensive ministerial changes to form a new government, largely comprising technocrats. Its task will be to implement economic openness, to sever all links with terrorism, and to reshape Libya's image.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Hospitalized in Jordan for 'Medical Tests'

NC0106110792 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 01 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, June 1 (AFP) - PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was hospitalized here Monday for medical tests, a senior official with the Palestine Liberation Organization told AFP.

A reliable Palestinian source had earlier announced Arafat's departure for Baghdad in a move, according to analysts here, aimed at concealing the PLO leader's hospitalization.

Commando Operation in 'Occupied Palestine' Reported

JN3005191392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] News reports from occupied Palestine speak of commandos infiltrating occupied Palestinian territory by sea this morning and engaging Zionist forces. According to the reports, the encounter left [word indstinct] killed and [word indistinct] of the commandos martyred and another wounded. The Zionist forces immediately sealed off the border points and the area where the clash took place. The streets also were cleared.

PFLP-GC To Continue Fedayeen Operations

JN2905180692 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Further details are coming out about the daring operation carried out by the fighters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], in cooperation with fighters from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-the Higher Council, against an enemy military convoy in the Qal'at al-Shaqif area of Arnun. Reports say that a fierce battle took place in the area during which the heroic fighters damaged a tank, destroyed a personnel carrier, killing the people inside, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy ranks.

Ambulances were seen carrying the enemy dead and injured from the battleground. Helicopters also were observed transporting many people to hospitals in Palestine. Reports received by your radio, the al-Quds Radio, indicate that clashes continued from 1600 yesterday until a late hour. Enemy forces fired flares into the skies over the area. The reports asserted, moreover, that the losses were much heavier than what the enemy declared them to be; namely, that an officer was killed and another seriously wounded.

Responsible sources within the PFLP-GC have said that two fighters remain missing. The sources also affirmed that qualitative fedayeen operations will continue in Lebanon and Palestine. No difference is discerned between the two; they are all arenas which the enemy is trying to control to achieve its expansionist objectives and to destroy the spirit of resistance.

'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Culture Minister 26 May

LD2605234592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at noon today met with his excellency the Iraqi minister of culture, Hamid Yusuf Hammad.

During the meeting they reviewed the latest developments and new events at the Arab and international scenes in addition to the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the blessed intifada of our people in the occupied homeland.

Brother Abu-Ammar also discussed with the minister the hard circumstances being lived by the Iraqi people in the shadow of the unjust siege imposed upon them. Brother Abu-Ammar asked the minister to convey his greetings to his brother President leader Saddam Husayn and to the leadership and the steadfast Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by brother Hakam Balawi, member of Fatah movement central committee and representative of the state of Palestine in Tunisia.

Authorities Close Gaza Higher Committee Office

TA2605160492 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 May 92 p 2

[Text] Gaza—The Civil Administration's coordinator of activities in Gaza yesterday summoned to his office members of the political committees' higher committee and informed them of the decision to close the higher committee's office in Gaza, which was expected to be opened this morning in the presence of scores of guests from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One of the higher committee's members said that the coordinator of activities told them that this was a temporary decision and does not include a ban on the activities of the political committees.

This member added that the Israeli official stressed to them that the Israeli authorities will make a decision about this office.

Journalists Propose 'National Covenant of Honor'

TA2605171792 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 24 May 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Munir Abu-Rizq]

[Excerpt] Upon the invitation of national institutions in the Gaza Strip, a large rally was held yesterday at Gaza's al-Shati' refugee camp in which the participants discussed the intifadah's negative practices and excesses.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, spoke about the link between the negotiations process and the intifadah and the effect of the negative practices on both.

'Abd-al-Shafi warned against attributing the negative practices to the intifadah. He said that the intifadah was more illustrious than this and that the negative practices resulted from frustration, suffering, and our inability to overcome hardship.

'Abd-al-Shafi proposed that the rallies be followed by practical steps to contain all the negative practices.

Palestinian delegation member Dr. Samir 'Abdallah lauded the intifadah's achievements on the local and international levels. He pointed out that one cannot talk about the violation of Palestinian human rights at international forums with Israel confronting the Palestinian delegation and human rights organizations with similar "violations" perpetrated by Palestinians against their Palestinian brothers. He added that the negative practices began when some people decided to militarize the intifadah.

Then journalist Tawfiq Abu-Khusah proposed a national covenant of honor, comprising eight points, to be adopted by all national and Islamic forces:

1. All national and Islamic forces must announce an end to all killings and kidnappings.

2. Reassessment of all the negative phenomena that have dominated the intifadah, especially murder, is necessary.

3. The relatives of those killed in the intifadah under the pretext of collaborating with the authorities, or for other reasons, should be treated with a sense of national responsibility and should not be ostracized.

4. National institutions inside the occupied territories and the concerned parties outside should hasten to take care of the families of those killed, who should be considered martyrs because, in fact, they are victims of the occupation.

5. The series of killings in prisons and detention camps must be stopped conclusively and decisively.

6. The war of and circulation of rumors must be stopped. Unjust defamation and discrediting of others should be halted.

7. Necessary measures must be adopted to deal with any phenomenon in a conciliatory way, based on our civilized and humanitarian heritage and our Islamic religion.

8. All the residents are called on to oppose resolutely any violation of this proclamation. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Israel Undermining Peace Process

TA2605191792 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Israeli Threat to the Peace Process"]

[Text] During a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, David Levi, two days ago in Washington [as published], U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stated that the United States will try its utmost to get the parties participating in the bilateral talks about the Middle East to attend the seventh round [as published] of talks in Rome before the Israeli elections on 23 June.

Baker did not refer at all to the Israeli efforts to undermine the peace process through the Israeli planes' constant bombing of south Lebanese villages and through statements by some Israeli officials that smell of a new war in the region.

Thus, Baker's lack of reference to the Israeli aggressions in south Lebanon strengthens our belief that the U.S. Administration is not serious in having the peace process reach its desired objectives. This also indicates that the U.S. Administration is trying to avoid responsibility for this process by overlooking the current Israeli attacks against the process in broad daylight. This should induce the Arab parties participating in the negotiations to formulate a unified Arab stance toward any expected U.S. invitation to convene the seventh round [as published] of peace talks in Rome before the Israeli elections. If such a round should take place, it will be no better off than the previous rounds, by which Israel tried to suggest to the world that it had managed to achieve progress in the peace process, whereas this process stalled at the same positions that had been rejected by the Arabs.

The Israeli escalation in south Lebanon has again put U.S. credibility to the test, for the continuation of the peace process and its success in reaching its goals will depend, henceforth, on the manner in which the U.S. Administration will deal with the Israeli aggressions.

AL-FAJR Editor-in-Chief Views Local Issues

TA2605173292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 25 May 92 p 16

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor-in-chief, by 'Imad Musa; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: Does the victory of the National Bloc in the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce elections have political implications?
A: The role of all the chambers of commerce is purely commercial and industrial and they serve the merchants and the economy of the country in the absence of national political elections. The election results in Nabulus are an indicator of trends and moods in Palestine, and they should be studied more seriously.

The results in Nabulus indicate that the political leadership in the National Bloc worked harder to reverse the dismal results in Ramallah (earlier this year).

In time, similar elections and even municipal elections may have a different interpretation and then they will only reflect local needs and municipal achievements, and not national positions and political implications on a national level.

Q: What do you think about public meetings to solve the negative effects of the Intifada?
A: Many journalists, especially from AL-FAJR, have taken upon themselves the responsibility to criticize Palestinians killing Palestinians, even collaborators. In December 1987, the Intifada began in Gaza's Jabalyah refugee camp, and in the same camp earlier this month, a public meeting took place to discuss these killings. The Palestine People's Party (formerly the Communist Party) in Gaza also held a public meeting against such killings, and many public figures, including Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Faysal al-Husayni, said that they are against (these killings).

The public meetings are an indicator that the majority of the people do not condone these acts, and these meetings are a step toward asking the leadership to be more firm in dealing with this issue.

Q: Do you think Palestinians should accept the idea of holding municipal elections beginning this fall?
A: A national mandate has been given to the Palestinian delegation to negotiate interim arrangements. Elections are not only necessary but are an indicator of the democratic values held by the Palestinian people.

At this moment, however, the priorities have changed. Legislative elections, according to the timetable set for an interim government, should be held before municipality elections. The Palestinian government resulting from those elections will then conduct municipal elections and will be the party responsible for all arrangements which will help democratic principles dig even deeper roots in the land.

When Israel proposes holding municipal elections first, they are trying to circumvent and undermine the budding Palestinian authority.

Q: Do you expect a Palestinian self-government to be in place four months from now?
A: According to the agreed upon timetable, both parties in the negotiations accepted that by October 30, 1992, the interim period should start. Thus far, in the five rounds of bilateral talks, there is little if any progress.

It is difficult to know whether or not serious progress will be made once the Israeli elections are over in June, and it is likely that foot-dragging will occur until after the U.S. elections are over in November.

The Palestinian negotiator is facing a mined road on the way to an interim arrangement, and so far no agreements on substance have been reached between us and the Israelis.

Algeria

Operations Intensify Against Islamists in Lakhdaria

LD3105141492 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpt] The five 300-man strong battalions, the airborne troops, and the importance of the means deployed by the Algerian authorities in the mountainous region of Lakhdaria, situated less than 100 km [east] of Algiers, leave no doubt at all about the intentions of the regime. The objective of the Army, which deployed for nearly 10 hours yesterday, is to capture what has become a real maquis, just as it was during the war for independence. This is not an easily accessible area where scores of Islamists have taken refuge. Anne Dissez is sending us these details from Algiers:

[Begin Dissez recording] The intervention of the special forces is continuing in what is commonly known now as the maquis of Lakhdaria. A few days ago, there was talk of a victory by these special forces. According to some people, there were only four terrorists left in that maquis. Today, no figures are being given and the action of the military seems to be intensifying. Since the start of this operation 15 days ago, 150 people have been arrested, nine of whom were carrying weapons. Two members of the security forces have been killed.

A large-scale operation covering the whole town of Lakhdaria enabled the security forces to arrest about 100 people suspected of belonging to the "support networks" [cercles de soutien], which is an expression borrowed from the terminology of Italian terrorism, which is currently very popular in Algeria.

The population of Lakhdaria, this small town sheltered by the Mounts of Zbarbar and overlooking the gorges of Palestro, is used to this kind of operation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Terrorist Groups' Dismantled

LD3105165792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command announced today that two-thirds of the special work of dismantling terrorist groups has been completed, and only some work remains, in particular those which pertain to the Mitidja area, where wanted persons are hiding.

Kasdi Merbah Predicts Change of Government in Jun

LD2905141392 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Kasdi Merbah, the former prime minister who was also in charge of the all powerful military security, tells Radio France International that a change of government will take place in Algiers in the coming month. He also says he is ready to become prime minister in Algeria but sets certain conditions, namely the formation of a sort of national coalition between the political parties, and a revision of the Constitution. He also agreed to answer Kamel Djaider's questions on the Western Sahara. It is the first time that an Algerian politician takes a stand on this matter since President Boudiaf's statement. You may recall that Mohamed Boudiaf seemed to distance himself from Algeria's traditional support of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]. Kamel Djaider asked Kasdi Merbah whether he fears a change in Algeria's policy in this matter:

[Begin Merbah recording] I do not fear it because there is after all an administration in our country, there is after all a public opinion in our country. The public opinion would accept with difficulty that a principle defended by Algeria since 1962 and which also led to its own liberation, a principle consisting in helping peoples to obtain their liberation, should be called in question. Apart from that, this is first of all a problem which is a political and also a psychological one which is important in our country: a change of this magnitude would lead the Algerians to believe that Algeria has reached rock bottom, if I may use the expression. [end recording]

Boudiaf Receives AMU Secretary General

LD3005214392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf today received Mohamed Amamou, Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] secretary general. Amamou was accompanied by the Mauritanian secretary of state for AMU affairs. Mohamed Amamou delivered the following statement to television correspondent Rachid Ould Mohand after the meeting:

[Begin Amamou recording] First, I would like to say that I am pleased and overjoyed to visit His Excellency President Mohamed Boudiaf and am pleased with the honor of delivering a verbal message from his brother, His Excellency AMU Chairman Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. I was honored with delivering this message and found, as I expected, that His Excellency President Mohamed Boudiaf is fully informed about the developments of our situation in the AMU and fully aware of the need to continue AMU action within the framework of brotherhood and solidarity so that we can edify this unified Maghreb space. [end recording]

Higher State Council To Approve National Rally

LD3005125192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] In light of the importance of the National Rally project, and the rich contributions which have been extended to it, the Higher State Council is expected to meet today to approve the final text of this project, and the means to implement it.

To remind you, the Higher State Council met last Tuesday under the chairmanship of President Mohamed Boudiaf, and devoted that meeting to continue studying the document which is connected with the major axes of the National Rally.

Council Issues Statement on Rally

LD3005215592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 92

[Statement issued by the Algerian Higher State Council (HSC) after meeting in Algiers on 30 May—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The HSC put the final touches to the national rally program. The national rally aims to establish room for expression and to bring the views of one another together. Therefore, it calls upon all of the country's clean forces to participate in this national project under only one condition, namely to work toward Algeria's higher interest. It also aims to consolidate the state's prestige with all its powers and to provide the necessary conditions so that all of the country's institutions can run well.

2. The HSC also dealt with the terms of implementing the national rally program.

3. The HSC chairman will address the nation in the coming days and detail the basic points and conditions for creating this rally.

More Ouargla Detainees Released From Centers

LD3005222792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] APS reports that 23 Ouargla Province detainees were released from Bordj Omar Driss, Illizi Province, last night. As previously announced, this measure was taken on the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. This brings the number of Ouargla detainees released since the detention centers were opened to 50. This is 45 percent of the total 123 in administrative detention at Bordj Omar Driss. APS cites well-informed Ouargla sources as saying that more releases from southern Algerian detention centers are expected in the coming days.

Egypt

Musa, Libyan Envoy Discuss Crisis Solutions

NC3005190492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, this evening. They reviewed the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis, and efforts to find a peaceful solution to it without escalating the situation.

Al-Baz Goes To Libya With Mubarak Letter

NC3105211592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Al-Sallum—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left the al-Sallum overland post for the Libyan Jamahiriyah this evening on a visit during which he will hand Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a special letter from President Husni Mubarak.

Dr. al-Baz had arrived at Sidi Barrani Airport aboard a special plane at 1630 today. He then proceeded overland by car to Libya's Tobruk Airport, from where he will depart for Tripoli to hand the letter to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi tomorrow morning.

Paper Views 'Military Option' in Libya Crisis

NC3005075592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM believes the Libyan crisis with the West is worsening and is further from being alleviated, despite Libya's recent positive steps, responding to parts of UN Security Council Resolution 731 on handing over the two defendants implicated in blowing up the American plane over Lockerbie.

In its editorial today, Saturday, AL-AHRAM says Libya has made practical proposals to prove that it denounces international terrorism, particularly its previous connections with the Irish Republican Army—of special interest to Britain. Libya has suggested representatives from the two countries meet to discuss the issue in the presence of the UN secretary general. Britain, as well as America, has rejected the suggestion, saying Libya should comply with all of the UN resolution, not just parts of it.

AL-AHRAM says Libya insists that it has sought ways to implement the resolution in line with available legal methods, but the West insists on the handover and on Libya abiding by all the other stipulations, saying the Libyan people's congresses could issue such a recommendation, which Libya says violates its own system and is the West interfering in internal Libyan affairs.

Analyzing the crisis, the paper says the West insists on handing over and trying the two defendants to get them to confess that the Libyan regime was behind the operation, eventually giving them an excuse to overthrow the regime, by force or, maybe, through international legitimacy. The paper thinks the military option still stands and will come, no matter how positively Libya responds to the resolution. The only chance to avoid it is to change the Libyan system into a Western-style democracy with economic freedom. Handover will be pursued until the West is completely satisfied with the new system.

The paper concludes that the crisis is heading for further complications, despite some encouraging signs. Even the UN secretary general's warning to the West not to keep rejecting the Libyan proposals will fail, because Western strategy is determined to change the Libyan regime either willfully or by coercion.

Ambassador Recalled To Protest Serbian Acts

NC3005200192 Cairo MENA in English 1919 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Cairo, May 30 (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt decided to recall its ambassador to Belgrade in protest against stands adopted by the Serbian Republic towards the newly independent Yugoslav republics and aggressions launched against the majority Muslim Bosnia-Hercegovina Republic.

Egypt's Ambassador Husayn Hassunah was instructed to inform Belgrade authorities of the said decision and to return home as soon as possible.

Earlier, Egypt had decided to give Serbia a several days' moratorium before it recalls the ambassador, pending the implementation of assurances by the Serbian Foreign Ministry that Serbian forces will pull out from Bosnia-Hercegovina.

However, shelling and killing acts continued [words indistinct].

Mubarak Message Delivered to Afghan Leader

NC2805095392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0911 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to interim Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. In his message, Mubarak stresses Egypt's desire to strengthen its relations with Afghanistan in various fields. Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Mukhlis Jubbah, who left Cairo today heading a delegation to Afghanistan, is carrying the message. In his message Mubarak expresses congratulations from the Egyptian people and himself to the Afghan mojahedin leadership on assuming power following their victory.

During the visit, the Egyptian delegation will hold talks with Afghan officials on bolstering bilateral relations. The delegation will assert Egypt's readiness to offer all possible aid to Afghanistan for reconstruction and development projects. The delegation will stress Egypt's wish for Afghanistan to enjoy stability, which would help bring progress and prosperity to the Afghan people.

Minister of State on World, National Issues

NC2705154092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Batalli has praised Egyptian-Turkish relations, calling them ideal and saying that they are an example because they aim to achieve cooperation, security, stability, and peace.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Batalli said that his talks with Egyptian officials were fruitful and constructive and centered on how to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields, particularly increasing trade, establishing a business council of Egyptian and Turkish businessmen, and cooperating in joint projects, specially in the areas of technology, industry, land and sea transport, agriculture, oil products, and production of automobile tires and electrical appliances.

Batalli added that joint efforts are underway to establish a joint holding company that could be the base for expanding the scope of investment projects between Egypt and Turkey.

The state minister discussed Turkey's concept of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] role on current developments regarding the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and elsewhere, saying that he regrets these painful events in which Muslims are being subject to lamentable incidents. He added that the ICO must try harder to stop the bloodshed in these areas. He stressed that solving these problems through peaceful means is a humanitarian duty, adding: We must help those suffering from aggression.

Regarding Turkish-Syrian relations, Batalli stressed that the two countries have no differences and that the outcome of talks to develop bilateral relations in all fields will become evident in the coming few days. He mentioned the recent talks held by the countries' interior ministers to discuss security-related issues in Turkey because "elements being trained in the al-Biqa' Valley were threatening Turkish security."

As to the water issue, the minister said that Turkey will continue to supply its neighbors with the water they need, adding that there are joint studies and research on the best way to exploit the water so as to benefit the three countries; that is, Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.

He added that the peace water project aims to use water that flows into the sea.

Minister Batalli also mentioned the race between Turkey and Iran to gain influence with the newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, saying that competition exists between a number of Islamic and Western countries to help these countries, noting that his country is not seeking to interfere in these republics' internal affairs. He said: These countries are now going through a transitional period and have rich natural resources. We are providing them with food aid and expertise so that they can become self-reliant as soon as possible.

He added: As proof that there is no competition, Turkey and Iran are cooperating to extend gas pipelines to Turkmenistan and from there to Europe.

Regarding recent developments on the Cyprus issue, he said: Efforts are continuing under UN auspices to achieve a lasting peace on the island as soon as possible and on the basis of the existence of two communities and two areas and the principle of equality.

He noted that relations between Turkey and Greece are proceeding well and that the requirement for entry visas for Greek nationals has recently been canceled. He added: There is a deputy who represents the Muslim minority in the Greek parliament. We have to try to create an atmosphere of cooperation, stability, and security.

Jordanian Comments on Mosque Restoration, Departs

NC2805145092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 May [MENA]—Ra'if Yusuf Najm, vice chairman of the Jordanian Committee for the Restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque, left Cairo this afternoon following a four-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Najm said that he will present several studies on the restoration of around 200 Islamic and 60 Christian historic sites in Jerusalem to the seven-member committee in charge of repairing the Islamic historic sites in Jerusalem. The committee is scheduled to meet after the al-Adha feast. He added that the estimated cost for these repairs is $44 million.

He also said that Jordan will begin the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in early July, noting that five French and British companies chosen from among 15 foreign companies will undertake the work.

'Extremist' Christians Seek Revenge for Killings

NC2805041092 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 May 92 p 9

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] An extremist Christian group in Asyut has disseminated a pamphlet entitled "The Altar of Christ" [Ma'idat al-Masih], demanding revenge for the Christians killed in the Manshiyat Nasir incident. The Islamic group in the area has also distributed a pamphlet; however, their's warns against acts against its members and threatens an instantaneous response.

The Lawyers Association's Freedoms Committee has decided to set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the accusations exchanged between the security forces and members of the Islamic group in Asyut. The committee will try to uncover the real causes of the sedition.

Publication of Misr al-Fatah Newspaper Suspended

NC2705162792 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 May 92 p 1

[Text] 'Abdallah Rushdi, the new Misr al-Fatah Party leader, has said that Egypt is living through one of the brightest eras of democracy. He said that the party is ready to fully cooperate with the government and other parties to find suitable solutions to the nation's problems.

Rushdi said that he has notified the Higher Press Council that the publication of the party's newspaper was suspended as of yesterday. The paper will resume publication soon, following a reorganization. Sha'ban Muhammad al-'Isawi has been appointed the new chief editor.

Three Missing as Freighter Sinks in Suez

NC3105101292 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Cairo, May 31 (AFP)—An Egyptian freighter carrying 550 tons of vegetables sank in the Gulf of Suez and three of its six-man crew have gone missing, port sources in Suez said.

The Yasmin, which set sail from the port of Suez went down Saturday about 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Egyptian resort town of al-Ghardaqah on the Red Sea as it headed for the western Saudi port city of Jeddah, they said.

Three crew members were saved by a Russian vessel which picked up the Yasmin's distress signal, they added.

Libya

Egypt Drafts Plan To Extradite Lockerbie Suspects

NC3005183892 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Official Egyptian sources have revealed that, in an attempt to extricate Libya from the current crisis, over the past few days a committee of Egyptian experts has been drafting a conclusive legal formula for handing over the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie case to be tried in Scotland.

The Egyptian committee includes specialists, professors, and lawyers experienced in criminal and international law. According the committee's report, efforts will be made to create an appropriate climate in the Arab world, and in Libya itself, to hand over the two suspects.

The report hints that new Libyan laws will be passed which will provide for surrendering the two suspects in a way that will circumvent Article 493 of the Libyan Procedures Law. This law specifies the rules for handing over wanted individuals and deporting them from another country [sentence as heard].

The report adds that the two defendants will be tried in a Scottish court, not in the United States.

Friday Prayer Sermons on Hajj, Religious Freedom

LD2905214892 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al Ma'[May] 29, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Sermons given at the mosques throughout the Great Jamahariyah today spoke of the guidelines of religion as well as the aggression which the Arab nation and the Muslim masses are currently facing at the hands of the racist crusaders who are waging a battle against Islam and the Muslims.

In the Friday prayers, the sermons at the Mosque focused on the need for this nation to be able to religion and religious values, in view of its' status as great nation of dignity and self-esteem. [sentence as received] These sermons spoke of how it is a nation with a glorious history, abounding with good deeds for the [word indistinct] of justness and goodness. The sermons called for the need to resist the enemy of this nation as well as those who wish to subjugate it and mock its' culture and traditions.

These sermons stressed that the enemies of Islam and the Muslims are pooling all their resources and capabilities to overpower this nation, its' destiny and existence. Indeed, the sermons went on, the malicious feelings these racist crusaders have for Islam, Muslims, and for the Arab identity have been exposed and most significantly in recent years.

These sermons were all unanimous in saying that this enemy exploited the international organisations in fighting the Islamic nation and the religion of God, the latest expression of which was the passing of tyrannical and unjust resolutions against the Great Jamahariyah by the NATO alliance [as received]. This, the sermons said, was mainly intended to prevent the Libyan Muslims from conducting the annual pilgrimage to Mecca (the Haj) and the lesser Haj except by permission from the enemies of Islam and the Arabs according to their conditions and their dictates.

The sermons questioned whether this was indeed the grossest of injustices and [word indistinct] against Islam and the Muslims, a blatant attempt at waging battle against the Arab nation, an outright interference in the religious values of Muslims, and a harmful action made against these values.

The sermons said that it was incumbent upon all believers to be strong in their commitment to God, to be free to practise as they wish and to refuse to accept directives from any direction, from whomever it should be, and particularly the enemies of God, the malevolent crusaders. They said that these crusaders who have brought about corruption in this world and are fighting against God and his prophets.

The sermons given at the mosques called on the Muslims throughout the Arab world for the need to resist those who are trying to subjugate them and to impose their control and hegemony. They also called on the Muslims throughout not to submit to the dictates of the enemy by seeking permission from this enemy to conduct the Haj.

Indeed, the sermons wondered how this could be so given that this enemy is fighting against God and his prophets, are urging on other enemies of Islam such as Salman Rushdie, publish these type of peoples satanic ideas. [sentence as received] They said that by requesting permission from such as these to go on the Haj or the A'amra or to any other place of worship is completely sacrilegious.

At the end of the Friday worship, the speakers said "we are waiting for the Islamic Sahwa which will descend on Islam and stand in the face of the enemies of Islam and oppose the outrageous and unjust resolutions which run contrary to even the most basic of human rights and freedoms to worship.

Weekly Cited on Hajj Rites

LD2905220492 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 29 May 92

[Arab Maghreb Union "Pool" item; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Ma' [May] 29, JANA-ARAB MAGHREB UNION's POOL— The Tripoli based weekly magazine the JAMAHIRIYAH publish an article today on the back page under the title "We will not go on the Haj this year and the year after which spoke about how it was not possible for history to ever record that Libyans ever performed any of their religious duties in an improper manner even if this means that the Libyans will never carry out the Haj.

Furthermore, we will not allow any profanity against our religion nor to have international legitimacy law to be used against us. Laws which we know well to be American laws and a legitimacy which is also American which aims to subjugate us, to make us kneel and to strike at the very depth of our religion.

A blow at the most holy of our holy relics and to wield pressure against us. We believe that what is really happening is the application of legitimacy which the countries belong to the United Nations wish. We will oppose any attempt of this type which would steer us away from our position.

The newspaper said that even if the matter concerns the Haj then we won't go on the Haj nor next year if the road to the Haj is going to be full of shame and dishonour and and if permission for the Haj has to come from Christians. It is sacreligious because condition should not be imposed. More importantly we are in a state of war with them and we are carrying out Jihad against them from Iraq and all the way to Libya by way of Palestine and

Lebanon. Thus if the Jihad suspends the Haj then it must be so because the Jihad is a duty.

In its article the JAMAHIRIYAH news paper said that the Haj is one of the most important duties however a Muslim is not required to go on the Haj except if certain conditions are met. First if [word indistinct] is made safe. Yet how can safety be guaranteed with arrangements by Christians.

Such has happened with the Prophet when he turned away from the A'mra when unbelievers stood in his path to the holy place.

The newspaper said that when the West mocks our religion and offers support and protection to Salman Rushdie and they published a book of his "The Satanic Verses" amidst world wide protest. When Spain celebrates the expulsion of Muslims which took place five centuries ago and apologise formally to Israel for what they did to the Jews at that time then this is bound to stir up anger.

The AL JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper went on to say that given that we are Muslims and have chosen this path willingly and we have chosen God so that we will be good, then it is incumbent on us that we do not depend on anyone other than God and we should not place our religious matters in the hands of unbelievers and followers of the devil.

This was mentioned in the Koran and it is a straight forward and clear indication to us, the Islamic world that we should not leave our matters for unbelievers to deal with. It is not possible for any reasonable Muslim to entrust his affairs or his religion to an unbeliever or to allow such a person to interfere in religious matters especially if the matter concerns Muslims. Only God has this right and no Muslim is permitted to request permission from an unbeliever to be allowed to go on the Haj or to go to the holy lands.

It is incumbent on the Muslims in the world to understand such matters which directly touch on matters which concern their religion. The newspaper ended its article by saying "You Muslims throughout the world whom are not being unjustly treated should call on God to purify his holy house for prayer. As for us Libyans, whom are being unjustly treated in the name of international law and legitimacy under American direction and with the American dollar, we shall go on the Haj but not like you shall. We will conduct the Haj in our houses and we will resist aggression and face this latest challenge and we will be victorious, God willing. And we will enter the holy house just as the prophet Ibrahim (s.a.w.) [God's peace be upon him] entered it and the manner in which the Muslims entered the day of the opening of Mecca after the control of Qurayesh was broken.

Delegations Discuss 'Unjust' Resolution 748

LD2905140392 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Delegations of the International Islamic Call Organization; the General Organization for Islamic Trusts, and the General Organization for Pilgrimage of the Great Jamahiriyah are currently conducting contacts and meetings with Arab and Islamic officials and organizations in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world to demonstrate to them what the acceptance of the unjust resolution 748 constitutes as a violation of and encroachment on the Islamic faith and blatant interference in the sacred right of the Muslim and [the relation] between him and his God.

These delegations are explaining the grave repercussions of the implementation of this resolution on the Muslims in the Great Jamahiriyah who refuse to perform one of their religious duties under the guardianship or interference of anyone, as it is not acceptable for a Muslim to ask permission to perform the duty of pilgrimage from the infidels; Christians, and [word indistinct]—particularly as the committee that will give permission has, first of all, received instructions from Washington which leads the new crusade against Islam and Muslims; and second because according to the religious law, jihad takes precedence over hajj. These points make the performance of the religious duty under guardianship [word indistinct] against Islam and the Muslims.

These are the first steps of the so-called new world order which surprised us with resolutions that determine for us how to perform our rites. They might even order us to renounce our Islamic faith and try to determine the relation between man and his wife.

Arabs Urged To Stand Up To Israeli 'Aggression'

LD2905092192 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sent a letter to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, which called for the need for the Arabs to stand up to the aggression being waged by the Zionists against Lebanon. The brother secretary general of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stressed in his letter that the lack of Arab reaction at the level of this challenge encourages the Zionist enemy to continue its aggression. He pointed out that the reason behind this is the division and dispersion suffered by the Arab nation. He also said that the only way for the Arabs to recover their respect is therefore to implement the charters and treaties that they jointly signed, foremost among which is the joint Arab defense treaty.

Sudan

King Fahd, Others Accused of Supporting Rebels

EA2905215592 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 May 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH today carries an editorial entitled: Is This the Duty of a Muslim to Another Muslim, O Fahd. It said the following: King Fahd's ships are engaged in supporting the rebel movement, which also receives assistance and support from racist zionism, colonialist circles, and church organizations in order to eradicate Islam and Arabism. This has no justification in the laws of Islam, Arabism, and the duty of neighborliness. The Sudanese people are accustomed, with regard to their brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to seeing in them generosity, chivalry, and a lofty noble character, besides the love of God and support for one another in good actions. If the motive behind this stand was due to resentment against Sudan's stand in the Gulf War, we say that was a blind strife in which Sudan pursued its own efforts: It did not approve of the aggression against Kuwait and did not support solving the issue by inviting foreign forces into the lands of the Muslims, as that would very much adversely affect the resources of the [Arab and Muslim] nation.

Al-Turabi Reportedly 'Responding to Treatment'

PM2905153492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 May 92 p5

[Imam Muhammad Ahmad report: "Al-Turabi Aides Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Incident Has Clear Political Implications; We Await Results of Canadian Investigation"]

[Excerpts] London—In a telephone call from Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's room in the Civic Hospital in Ottawa, Canada, one of Dr. al-Turabi's companions said, in reply to a question about Dr. al-Turabi's health following the incident the day before yesterday, that Dr. al-Turabi was making a good recovery and beginning to respond well to treatment. [passge omitted]

According to people close to Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, "the incident has clear political implications, but we will await the results of the investigations being carried out by the Canadian security authorities."

Assailant Denies Political Affiliation

PM2905151492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 May 92 p1

[Reports by 'Uthman al-Mirghani in London and Muhammad Sadiq in Washington: "Hashim Badr-al-Din tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Attacked al-Turabi for Political Reasons; I Have No Links With Any Organization"]

[Excerpt] Hashim Badr-al-Din, the man who attacked Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF] Secretary General Dr. Hasan al-Turabi at Ottawa airport in Canada on Monday night, has denied that any others took part with him in the attack. In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his home in Ottawa, he said: "Any claim that two other persons took part in the attack with me is untrue." He added: "There was nobody with me. Even the Canadian police did not charge anyone else."

Hashim Badr-al-Din, a religious man and a Karate world champion, stressed that his motives were purely political. He denied any link with any organization.

He also said: "I am a devout Muslim. I believe al-Turabi does not represent Islam. The majority of Sudan's devout Muslims believe that they must defend Islam against distortion and against the wrong practices carried out in its name." [passage omitted]

Commentary Outlines Government Stance at Abuja

EA2905144592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 28 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] peace negotiations in Abuja between the government delegation and the two delegations of the rebel movement [words indistinct] the Nigerian Government, and the OAU [words indistinct] on procedure and which viewpoints on the issue were submitted as well as its political dimensions and the (?economic), social, and psychological effects resulting from it.

Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, leader of the government's delegation, spoke at the international conference hall in the Nigerian capital to representatives of the host government, members of the diplomatic corps and correspondents of the international media and news agencies in Nigeria. He reviewed the national salvation revolution's efforts to achieve peace and its commitment to peace as a strategic aim since the day of its inception. The revolution has called for peace, adhered to it, and striven for it despite the rebel movement's (?resistance), intransigence, and contempt for this call.

The government's address in Abuja was specific and its submission clear since it, that is to say the government, does not proceed from a vacuum nor does it move without guidance, for peace is a dear aim. Despite the victories achieved in the theater of operation, the government has gone to the negotiations. It has not taken advantage of those victories to pressure the two wings of the rebel movement because this is not in the Sudanese character.

Shortly before his departure for Abuja, the leader of the government delegation stated: We are going with an open heart—the original Sudanese character—and in all sincerity to achieve peace. As a matter of fact, we realize the bad psychological state in which the two wings of the rebellion are. We know the state of confusion afflicting the movement's negotiators while they approach the negotiations without mass support and without a base on which they can rely.

Added to this, is the state of (?frustration) in which Garang's and Lam Akol's soldiers find themselves as they are besieged on all sides by the People's Armed Forces which have been obliged to bear their responsibilities to provide security and stability, and to spread tranquillity and peace to the citizens of the south on whom the rebel movement imposed evil punishment by making them endure the worst. The rebel movement has plundered their property, violated their sanctities, and forcibly wrested their children to exploit them in the worst manner, using them to carry goods and materiel and throwing them into a futile war, whose essence they do not know and which contradicts all conventions, values, and laws.

The government of the revolution realizes the dangers to the south in particular and Sudan in general posed by the continuation of the war and fighting, namely a stop to economic and social development projects, and the destruction of services, health, and education utilities. The sons of Sudan pay an exorbitant price for every day that passes without an end to the war. This is why the government welcomes peace and is the one holding the embers [as heard].

It sits today with the two wings of the rebel movement with a high-ranking delegation with a full mandate to reach a just and permanent peace. This was what was confirmed by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah in his opening address in Abuja, when he said: We come today more keen on negotiations and more determined to achieve peace, and to end the bloodshed. The government enters the negotiations realizing the dimensions of the war and its dangers to the future of Sudan; this war that has driven away millions of peaceful sons of the south and as a result of which more than 1 million children are without health and educational care. In its submission conveyed by the leader of the delegation to Abuja, the government is transcending the wounds of the past and the accumulation of years of war by its determination to achieve peace by deed not word, by practice not slogans.

The government is going to Abuja with a tremendous asset of achievements. That is manifested by the setting up of the peace and development foundation to deal with the effects of war in the southern states by achieving peace, creating development without discrimination between citizens on the basis of religion, race, language, sex, culture, or cultural origin.

The government is sitting at the negotiations with the two wings of the rebellion with all these assets and despite its military superiority in order to achieve a permanent and just peace to keep the sons of Sudan away from the woes of this destructive war. We hope from our hearts that the two sides of the rebel movement will reciprocate the government's determination to achieve peace to the same degree, out of a sense of responsibility equal to the government's. Last, we hope that the sons of Sudan will embrace each other in the land of sisterly Nigeria just as the two Niles embrace each other in Khartoum. God grants success.

Radio on Rebel Call for Secession

EA2905172092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has confirmed that there will be no concessions on fundamentals in the peace talks in Abuja, reiterating the government's commitment to flexibility and understanding as much as possible and insistence on the success of the talks.

There are principles which cannot be abandoned or conceded under any circumstances [words indistinct] springs from the faith of this people as well as from the values of society. Those fundamentals are backed by a national agreement and consensus embodied in the national dialogue conference on peace issues. It is needless to say that the government delegation went to Abuja with a full mandate to achieve peace. It has a definite program and clear proposals emanating from the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues. The government is committed to the recommendations of the conference as a strong basis and important grounds for the achievement of peace in all parts of our dear homeland following a long period of war and fighting.

Sudan wants the problem of the south to remain a national problem of concern purely to the Sudanese. In the last analysis, the matter is not difficult to resolve provided that the Sudanese sit around one table to reach an agreement acceptable to all sides in a civilized manner. However, it seems that the two sides of the rebel movement look at the problem [words indistinct]. It is emphatically not a Sudanese view but rather a foreign vision hostile to Sudan.

The role of the rebel movement here is like that of someone making sounds on behalf of those foreign forces and acting as a pawn intent on tearing apart the body of the Sudanese people.

The call for secession by both wings of the rebel movement is a foreign design and naked conspiracy. Sudan has never been two states. The colonialist forces did indeed attempt to do this more than once when they invented the Closed Areas Act. It was an attempt to prevent the required contact, natural mixing, and real openness through coexistence of the Sudanese people in the north and south. However, the people of the south taught the colonialists a hard lesson at the Juba conference of 1947, when the southerners insisted on keeping the south as an inseparable part of Sudan, the single homeland. There was however a demand for a federal system, a call which was then regarded as an unforgivable crime and an impossible dream beyond realization. Yet, the national salvation revolution took a bold decision by applying the federal system to uphold the rights of the citizens and ensure justice by sharing power and distributing resources.

What then has impelled the two wings of the rebel movement to call for secession today? In reality the movement does not represent anyone except itself. John Garang and Lam Akol do not represent the rebel movement and the rebel movement does not represent the south. There are a number of tribes opposed to the rebel movement and which resist the criminal designs which it is working hard to implement in the south.

There are southerners inside Sudan who are opposed to the rebellion because the rebel leaders operate according to their caprices, whims, and private interests without taking into consideration the common interest and the interest of the southerners. Yet they claim falsely that they care about their rights.

The government, in spite of the successive victories achieved by the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces in the theaters of operation and the withdrawal of the outlaws as a result of these hard blows, it, I mean the government, has not attempted to use these victories to pressure the rebel movement. The government, very simply, is proceeding in its negotiations with the movement on the basis of disregarding the views of the past and moreover it is motivated by sincere Sudanese ideals, traditions, and mores.

The rebel movement, with its two wings, should seize the opportunity available in Abuja today to achieve peace, to stop the bloodshed, and to look forward to a blossoming future for Sudan, God willing.

State of Emergency Lifted in Darfur State

EA2905213092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Colonel Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, the governor of Darfur State [western Sudan], has announced that the state of emergency has been lifted. He said the state had been declared free of weapons.

Colonel al-Tayyib said the security organs were carrying out their normal duties and the call-up had been done away with completely. The state was witnessing a state of security normalization and the various judicial and legal organs would be discharging their normal duties. The Darfur governor pointed out that more than 170 villages had been reconstructed within the framework of the security normalization and that work was continuing to reconstruct other villages.

Western Sahara

Morocco Accused of Violating Cease-Fire, Airspace

LD2905223492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] The Polisario Front and the Saharan government called on the UN today to intervene and force Morocco to respect the cease-fire in Western Sahara.

A statement issued by the Saharan Ministry of Information this evening stressed that the Moroccan Air Force has repeatedly violated Saharan airspace, especially over regions under the control of UN forces.

In a statement to APS, Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz said that the danger of a return to war is plausible if the peace plan is abolished. [passage omitted]

Front Willing To Accept Electoral Revision

LD3005210392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz today announced that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro is ready to accept a revision to the electoral register of voters participating in the self-determination referendum. However, the Saharan president rejects the Moroccan conditions of adding 120,000 new voters.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh Denies Supplying Arms to Sudanese Rebels

LD3105230992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpts] In response to statements made by Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, during his meeting last Wednesday with the Sudanese mass media on the false allegations and fabrications that stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tried to supply rebels in the south [of Sudan] with arms, an authoritative source made the following statement to SPA:

All that was stated by the Sudanese president to television and which was published by some Sudanese papers, which are still continuing their frantic campaign, is entirely untrue and is totally unfounded.

What is more, it calls for scorn and disgust regarding its style and meaning, because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as is known, always rises above interference in the internal affairs of others and keeps distant, out of self respect, from pursuing these cheap and devious methods.

The source went on to say that, although we do not seek to emulate the style of some Sudanese mass media that prove they harbor hatred, which is exposed daily, we waited for some time before responding to the allegations of the ruler of Sudan so that we might ascertain the surrounding aspects of this matter, which might be a plot hatched against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, now that we are certain of the situation, we would like to supply our reply. We would like to ask the ruler of Sudan to prove the false allegations with which he fooled his people.

We also believe that the time is ripe to acquaint and remind the Sudanese people of the positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward it before and after the affliction that befell it when its ruler al-Bashir controlled the reign of power in Sudan.

We expected goodness from him when he first visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 26 Muharram 1409, corresponding to 29 July 1989, at the head of a big Sudanese delegation when he first assumed power. At the time, he briefed the custodian of the two holy mosques on the disastrous economic situation in Sudan and appealed for support, assistance, and backing. He received an immediate response from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, as is his custom. The Kingdom continued its policy of support and assistance for Sudan and for the Sudanese people, which represented a new phase among the phases of brotherly Islamic and Arab support as stipulated by the duties of blood, creed, language, and common goals.

The overall aid and loans granted by the Kingdom [to Sudan] throughout various phases are estimated at $2,701,300,000, calculated as follows:

1) Non-reimbursable aid: $1,349,000,000, calculated as follows:
a. $359 million in the form of oil, the latest installment was worth $36 million in 1411 [24 July 1990 to 13 July 1991].
b. $418 million donated for defensive purposes; the latest installment was worth $20 million paid in 1410 [4 August 1989 to 24 July 1990].
c. $572 million granted to support the Sudanese economy and other Islamic, social, educational, health, and humanitarian purposes.

2) Monetary Loans: The monetary loans amounted to $1,049,620,000. [passage omitted]

3) Development loans amounted to $302,608,000. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has continued to provide those loans, although the government of Sudan did not fulfill its obligation of repaying them. [passage omitted]

The source went on to say: In light of the above clarification, is it conceivable that a state should provide all that brotherly Islamic support to a brotherly state, without seeking any reward or gratitude, and then turn against it and fight it by dispatching weapons to those rebels—enemies of Sudan—who are attempting to split Sudan by separating its south from its north, as announced by the ruler of Sudan to his people in falsehood and vilification? Perhaps he has received the payment for that disgraceful position from the leader of sedition, Saddam Husayn, as he had received payment previously, when he denied his Arabism and Islamism and supported the Iraqi ruler's occupation of a sisterly Arab state, and has always supported Iraq under the guise of flimsy pretexts of untruths and deception, which was condemned and found to be astounding by all the sons of the Saudi and Sudanese peoples who are aware of the Kingdom's positions on Sudan and its people.

At the end of his statement, the source said: We have been eager to reveal the facts before the people of Sudan and before the brother residents from the sons of Sudan who are among us, for whom we feel sincere amity and fraternity, as they feel for us, so that these facts would be tantamount to a slap in the face of the ruler of Sudan, who has announced in his voice and in person on Sudanese television, in a manner that is not worthy of a head of state—except in our perception he represents only himself—that the Kingdom was dispatching weapons to his enemy in the south to fight the people of Sudan with them. A monstrous word has come out of their mouths; they say nothing but lies. [Koranic verse]

Papers Discuss Yemeni Dispute, Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD3005140292 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Riyadh, May 30, SPA—Editorials in today's Saudi newspapers dealt with Saudi Arabia's stance to promote friendly relations with its neighbouring states and its noble support to Moslems of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Jeddah based 'UKAZ commented on an official statement of Saudi Arabia last Wednesday about the Saudi-Yemeni borders. Ever since the conclusion of the al-Ta'if agreement in 1353 AH [1934], it said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had been making sincere and faithful efforts to honour her obligations and deal with Yemen in the framework of respect, love and the deep-rooted blood and heritage ties between the two peoples. The paper regretted the Yemeni side's unwillingness and lack of serious interest or positive response toward repeated Saudi initiatives to negotiate the demarcation of the remaining part of the common border or to rebuild the landmarks of the recognized borders. It is now up to the Yemeni side to determine whether this matter would be settled in a manner that would guarantee the rights of the two sides.

AL-MADINAH, also published in Jeddah, lauded the noble position of the Kingdom over the situation of Moslems in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which is reflected clearly in directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to dispatch urgent relief materials to them to lessen their sufferings resulting from war that is imposed on them by Serbians. The paper stated that the gesture is part of the Kingdom's cardinal policy to side with all Moslems and their causes. Commenting on the same issue, AL-BILAD deplored the criminal massacres commited by Serbia against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and termed the event as an insult to the civilized world. The paper expresed dismay over the slow role undertaken by the UN so far to bring about an end to this terrible and unfair war of extermination despite the suitable international atmosphere that could have enabled the international organization to adopt a firm measure and establish peace in that part of the world.

The al-Dammam based AL-YAWM highlighted the keen interest of the Kingdom to establish fraternal ties with its neighbours and brothers. Referring to question of the Saudi/Yemeni borders, the paper said if the Yemeni side responded positively on the Saudi proposals to settle the matter in an amicable way, then the matter should have been resolved many years ago. The paper expressed confidence that the Kingdom is ready to start negotiations over the demarcation whenever it feels that the Yemeni side shows keen interest to do so.

The Mecca based AL-NADWAH commended the great care paid by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on youth and sports movement in the Kingdom.

Yemen

Salih on Border Issues, Assassination Attempts

PM2905144492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 May 92 p 4

[Interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan in Sanaa on Monday 25 May]

[Text] ['Atwan] Your Excellency, President, what distinguishes Yemeni union, the second anniversary of which you are celebrating at present, from other unions?

[Salih] Yemeni union was achieved peacefully and democratically and no one has been harmed by it. The two leaderships in the North and the South took power on an equal footing. So no one now feels he is the victor or the vanquished.

['Atwan] At the press conference yesterday (Sunday 24 May) you said that you were willing to discuss the border issues so as to guarantee the legal and historical rights of all parties. My question is: Can you specify Yemen's legal and historical rights exactly?

[Salih] We tell everyone that there must be goodwill to discuss the outstanding issues. The two sides must sit down at the negotiating table. Each side must produce the legal and historical documents which support its claims. When these documents are presented at the negotiating table they will be discussed.

['Atwan] Saudi Arabia announced indirectly that al-Kharkayr (an area in Hadhramaut) is Saudi territory and has included it in its weather forecasts along with the other regions of the kingdom.

[Salih] That is not all. We have heard that they say that Ma'rib and al-Jawf are also Saudi.

['Atwan] So what are your claims and where are your borders situated? If it is a question of improving negotiating positions, why are you keeping silent?

[Salih] I do not believe that there is anyone in the Arab homeland who does not know what our or others' historical and legal rights are.

['Atwan] That statement is a generalization.

[Salih] Everyone knows Yemen's rights and borders. And we believe that you as an Arab intellectual know Yemen's borders.

['Atwan] What about the current attack on Yemen from both within and without?

[Salih] The attack is the result of the existence of a plan being realized in the Arab homeland and whose basis is Yemeni union and democracy; and the whole region is affected by what happens in some of its areas. We, for example, are affected by what happens to our neighbors, and they are also affected by what happens in Yemen.

['Atwan] Some oil companies like British Petroleum have stopped prospecting operations in the Red Sea, and the U.S. company Hunt has been warned to do the same. What is the truth?

['Atwan] The warnings to the prospecting companies are not new. Hunt itself received a warning in 1984, but it was less sharp than the recent warning. We believe that the operations of the Western oil companies prospecting in Yemen are being hampered, because if these companies continue prospecting operations, this means that Yemen will begin to tackle its economic crisis.

['Atwan] What is the Western companies' position on these warnings?

[Salih] The Western oil companies, especially the U.S. companies, are determined to continue prospecting operations.

['Atwan] Are you alarmed at the warnings addressed to the oil companies?

[Salih] No. We are not alarmed. I tell everyone that the union is like the revolution. In fact it is the third revolution. And partition is not up to me or any ruler in the North or the South, be he in Sanaa or Aden, or to any officer, soldier, or intellectual. The clock cannot be turned back. Such talk has finished. Those who are banking on a return to partition can create confusion, but they will not succeed in smashing the union. We have prepared ourselves for bigger things than this confusion!

['Atwan] You said that you informed your sister state Saudi Arabia—the other side—of your willingness to negotiate. How was it informed? Through the Americans?

[Salih] Through the Yemeni Foreign Ministry and the Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh. We also informed their embassy in Sanaa. We are willing to negotiate and willing to send a delegation to Riyadh to discuss this matter or receive a delegation from there in Sanaa.

['Atwan] When was it informed?

[Salih] In the first half of April.

['Atwan] Has there been any response?

[Salih] We have not had any reply at all.

['Atwan] Have you sought U.S. mediation?

[Salih] We keep our friends informed of developments in the matter.

['Atwan] How?

[Salih] We have put them (the Americans), the French, the British, the Germans, and the Russians in the picture. We have also informed our brothers in Egypt, Syria, the Sultanate of Oman, and the other Arab states of developments in the matter, especially the Saudi warnings to the oil companies, and of our position on negotiations.

['Atwan] Talking of borders, at your press conference you said that Yemen's patience has its limits. What does that mean, and where are these borders situated?

[Salih] Our patience is still abundant. And I hope that this remark (that Yemeni patience has its limits) will not be understood to mean that we are starting a battle...this is ruled out as far as we are concerned...we are seekers of peace...our battle is a peace battle.

['Atwan] Are we to understand that the military option is completely ruled out?

[Salih] We oppose and reject the option of war. We have a new international order and new international institutions. We also have channels through which we can make moves.

['Atwan] It is reported that there are deployments on the borders?

[Salih] No...that is untrue.

['Atwan] Estimates put your present oil output at about 200,000 barrels a day and export levels at 150,000 barrels—which means that a small increase in exports would qualify you to join OPEC. So do you intend to increase your output and join OPEC?

[Salih] We expect some fields to be developed and output increased in 1993. But that requires sums of money in the region of $1 billion for investment in the field of oil exploration. We are interested in the discovering oil and increasing output. We are not interested in joining OPEC first. We want oil that brings us out of our economic crisis; the rest is mere details.

['Atwan] We move on to the assassinations issue, the subject preoccupying Yemen and its press these days. What is behind them, and why are they happening now?

[Salih] There is exaggeration in some reports on this subject. But there are genuine assassination attempts like that which was made on our brother, the justice minister. Some other incidents have happened to some Yemeni Socialist Party leaders. But if these incidents are examined carefully, you will find that there is some confusion between tribal revenge issues and party affiliations. This, because when revenge is wrought on a person, the press says that the party to which he belongs is the target.

For example, a person in Sufyan had a problem with a friend of his who belonged to a neighboring tribe. And it happened that this person killed two people and fled before unification took place and joined the Socialist Party after unification. Then he was killed in revenge for the old killing. The matter has no political dimension. But in the framework of political pluralism we say that the incident is attributable to political differences.

Since we achieved unification we read nothing in the press except murder and disasters—which gives others the impression that security has been shaken, when the truth is very different.

['Atwan] Do you accuse certain circles of these exaggerations?

[Salih] Perhaps they have links with sabotage. And perhaps there are people or circles that have links with sabotage, but they do not represent the parties to which they belong.

We know that some individuals become so weak when faced with financial temptations as a result of their poor living standards. Generally we expect all these things. It is a price we pay for union.

We have launched measures under a new security plan which is being implemented in a number of governorates. Perhaps Sanaa is the problem because of its size. In addition, after unification we also set about immobilizing the political security (intelligence) service because it was a problem in both the North and the South. The security service was a secret service against all the people, so we froze it—and this weakened the security organs. We have now rebuilt it on new foundations, and the security service has started to play its national role within the framework of the united state. And I believe that it will achieve tangible results.

['Atwan] Your Excellency, President, do you fear that the conspiracy might also affect you? In other words, do you not fear assassination, especially as the assassination of presidents is not unprecedented in Yemen?

[Salih] We embarked on our great course of action and are ready for sacrifice. We have read about scenarios for assassinating Yemeni leaders, especially in the Socialist Party, in order to create internal sedition and civil war. That scenario is known. But the Party is fully aware of and its leadership understands this matter. We of the General Congress too understand it. We have taken the necessary measures and leave the rest to God.

['Atwan] The existence of 146 newspapers and publications in united and pluralistic Yemen attracted my attention. Do you read them all?

[Salih] Yes...I follow them. I read the headlines, and if a topic attracts me I read it. What I read most is what is written against the government and the president.

In addition to that there is an office whose task is to follow the domestic and foreign press and provide summaries to the Command Council members.

['Atwan] And what is your opinion of the great number?

[Salih] It is an excellent phenomenon. Let people express their opinion. In view of the economic crisis and the ill will against Yemeni unification people need a vent. Without that democratic rivalry people can turn into volcanoes and explode. It is part of the breath of democracy. People here criticize the president and the government openly in the press. It is a beautiful phenomenon which does not exist in many other states. Perhaps the process which produces sudden freedom of expression is difficult in the beginning, but in the end it produces good results.

['Atwan] It is noted that your plan to disarm tribes and individuals is facing opposition from the tribes. How do you tackle that opposition?

[Salih] We have regulations on carrying arms, not on taking them away from citizens. In accordance with the law every Yemeni is entitled to carry arms, provided that they are regulated and licensed.

['Atwan] No regulations for taking away all arms completely?

[Salih] No. At the beginning of the revolution the government tried to take away the arms but failed. It besieged tribes in Sanaa and its vanguards reached Jabal 'Asr [transliterated].

['Atwan] Do you not fear these arms in the hands of the tribes?

[Salih] We in Yemen have customs and traditions governing society. For example, brother Salim Salih, member of the presidential council and who sits with us, is guarded by 20 to 30 men. I am guarded by 50 or 60 soldiers. What can these do in front of the armed tribes? I go to Hadhramaut, Shabwah, or Sa'dah and face 50,000, 60,000, or 70,000 armed citizens there. What can my guard do against these if they want to harm me. There are ethics in our country, and every citizen a defender of the homeland. But in every society there are misfits.

I move among the tribes, so do you believe that 50 soldiers can protect me?

Before unfication I was in Sa'dah, where some 7,000 armed citizens received me. I had with me 200 soldiers only. So what could have these soldiers done if a misadventure took place?

There are deep-rooted customs and traditions in Yemen. Vengeance exists here and it might not end in 50 or 100 years. Arms exist in our country in every shape and color. Some citizens possess about 20 rifles and they want to leave them to their children. They regard them as ornaments and a source of pride. When a Yemeni sees a new weapon he sells his old one and buys it.

['Atwan] What about the cities?

[Salih] We are trying to make the cities an exceptional case, as they contain foreigners and foreign companies. This, because carrying arms in the cities' streets is undesirable. We will not ban carrying arms, but they must be licensed.

['Atwan] Do you fear a victory by the Islamists in the next elections?

[Salih] We do not fear anyone's victory as long as we pursue political pluralism. We have adopted the democratic option and there will be no backtracking on it.

['Atwan] If we move on to the concerns of the Arab world, especially the siege currently imposed on both Libya and Iraq....

[Salih] [interrupting] First, you must understand that the siege is not against Iraq alone...we too are besieged...Yemen is besieged. Palestine is besieged. This state of siege is the price for the pan-Arab position we adopted during the Gulf crisis. We were advocates of "the Arab solution." That was our choice and we are reaping its fruits....But what can we do for the brothers in Libya in view of the weakness of the Arab world?

['Atwan] After the results of the second Gulf war became clear, did you regret your position?

[Salih] No. We are not regretful, because we were convinced of our position. This, because that position was not against Kuwait. On the contrary, the first Arab demonstration against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was staged in Yemen. And the demonstrators condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We also condemned the brothers in Iraq for their step, specifically on 3 August and during a meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan. We have the documents which confirm our position on the crisis. We do not regret our adoption of the Arab solution option. I said at the famous Cairo summit: If we are here for the purpose of condemnation, we have already done the condemnation. But if we are here to search for a solution, we must concentrate on that.

Ministry Welcomes Saudi Statement on Border

JN3105054192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] An official source at the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated the following: The Republic of Yemen has received with extreme interest the statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 29 May 1992 on the border dispute between the two neighboring countries.

While welcoming this statement, the Republic of Yemen would like to reaffirm its known position on tackling and addressing the border dispute between the two countries.

The source affirmed that a solution to border issues between our country and its neighbors has always topped the priority list of the Yemeni Government since the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen. This was clearly expressed in the statement presented to the Council of Representatives by the first cabinet in the wake of unity. The Council of Representatives, for its part, blessed this policy and authorized the government to hold negotiations with all neighboring countries in this regard.

To confirm the Yemeni Government's desire to tackle and address the border issue with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Yemen has been eager to see direct talks held between official agencies from the two countries. Our country would like to reiterate its position regarding the need to start negotiations to resolve the border issue comprehensively and in a manner that would ensure the rights and interests of the two fraternal countries.

Concluding his statement, the source said: The Yemeni Government would like to reaffirm that the principles and modalities according to which such problems are resolved are well known and prescribed in the international law.

The source affirmed that the Yemeni Government is eager to reach fair solutions to the satisfaction of both sides, solutions that would enhance the ties of fraternity, safeguard the good neighborly ties existing between the two fraternal countries, and bolster security and stability in the region.

Regime Said Using Chemical Weapons in Marshlands

NC2905174592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1541 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] A number of Iraqi Army officers have told opposition sources that the dictatorial regime has several containers of chemical material and powder, as well as barrels containing napalm, in the Iraqi marshlands. The officers say that the regime has used these chemical weapons against marshland inhabitants.

Similar weapons were used to put down the popular uprising last year.

Opposition Group Claims Ambush of Military Convoy

NC3005185392 Paris AFP in English 1822 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Nicosia, May 30 (AFP) - A key Iraqi opposition group on Saturday claimed responsibility for an attack northeast of Baghdad that left several servicemen dead, including three Iraqi officers.

In a statement received here by AFP, the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution In Iraq (SAIRI) said a "commando unit" ambushed a military convoy on the al-Rashidiyah-Ba'qubah road northeast of Baghdad, killing three officers. The Tehran-based group said the attack took place May 26.

"A colonel, a major and a lieutenant as well as several servicemen were among the victims," the statement said. It also reported that several other Iraqi troops were killed and "large amounts of weapons and ammunition were seized by opposition forces" in another ambush on al-Basrah, southern Iraq, in the past few days.

There was no independent confirmation of the SAIRI-claimed operations.

Police-Security Forces Clash in Irbil Reported

JN3105182892 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1725 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] At 2300 [1900 GMT] on 28 May 1992, a battle between Iraqi security forces and Iraqi police took place in Makhmur, Irbil Governorate. Heavy weapons, cannons, and rocket launchers were used in the battle, which lasted for several hours. Three policemen were killed and nine members of the security forces were wounded.

Baghdad-Based Opposition Condemns Syrian 'Crimes'

JN3005151792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—The Political Bureau of the National Front for the Salvation of Syria [NFSS] has strongly condemned the ongoing detention campaigns by the Syrian authorities against Lebanese strugglers and other freemen living in Lebanon.

In a statement today, the NFSS strongly denounced the Syrian regime's continued pursuit of freemen and its kidnappings and assassinations of Syrian strugglers in Lebanon.

The statement appeals to the Arab nation and its struggling masses to engage in effective and serious moves to obtain the release of detained strugglers and to restore the independence of fraternal Lebanon, which the Syrian regime has stolen to realize its own objectives and expansionist dreams.

The statement notes that the Syrian regime has brought tragedies to our Lebanese and Syrian peoples; it has waged war against the Palestinian people, killing and arresting thousands of them; and it has joined the American, British, French, and Zionist forces in fighting the brave people of Iraq. The continuation of this regime in power, asserts the statement, is a blot of shame on the forehead of all honorable men in Syria, Lebanon, and the Arab world.

The statement notes the series of crimes and arrests undertaken by the Syrian regime against the strugglers, including a group of young girls and women, in all Lebanese cities, villages, and areas.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace Violations

JN3105082992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] New York, 31 May (INA)—Iraq yesterday addressed a new memorandum to the United Nations protesting Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. warplanes.

In his memorandum, the Iraqi permanent delegate to the United Nations said that the air activity conducted over Iraqi territory by U.S. warplanes during period 20-28 May totaled 118 air sorties aimed at surveillance and harassment. He added that the sorties were conducted at different speeds and altitudes. He further noted that the sorties centered over Mosul, Zakho, Dahuk, Irbil, Tall 'Afar, al-'Amadiyah, Rawandoz, and 'Ayn Zalah.

Saudi Arabia Said Backing Rebellion in Sudan

JN3105111192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described the Saudi regime's treasonous course as a basic link in the comprehensive imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation.

In an article today, the paper asks: Why does the Saudi regime persist in its treasonous course? What does it seek to achieve through these wicked conspiratorial policies? What interest does it have in supporting the rebellion in southern Sudan? Does it covet Yemeni oil, which is still at the stage of exploration and limited output?

The paper explains that the Saudi regime apparently believes that time is ripe for an overall settling of scores with Arab states—particularly Sudan and Yemen—and nationalist and pan-Arab forces that refused to join the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist trench against Iraq and declared their support, one way or another, for Iraq.

The newspaper affirms that through such a role and strange actions, the Saudi regime wants to change the political map of the region to turn it into a satellite for it and bring it under complete imperialist hegemony.

The paper says that the Saudi regime is currently engrossed in this non-pan-Arab and irresponsible course to convince its American masters of its ability to play a larger role than the one assigned to it in the Arab region.

Concluding its article, the paper says: However, the fatal mistake in the calculations of the Sa'ud family's regime lies in its counting on the American master. This regime forgets the experience of many agent regimes which shows that the United States does not hesitate to topple or change any subservient regime when it finds that its interest necessitates that an agent be removed or the face of a humble satellite be changed. Above all, however, the people's stand and glaring rage against their treasonous and corrupt rulers are crucial.

Commenting on the same issue, the newspaper BABIL says in an article published today that the Sa'ud family's declaration of its allegiance to the United States at this point in time is prompted by the fact that the latter is the leader of the capitalist and colonialist camp at present. That is why this family is rendering services to the United States.

The paper adds that what distinguishes the Sa'ud family from the other parties which are involved in hostile schemes in the region is that it attempted to project for itself a role showing it as a party that has an independent political will or one that is concerned for safeguarding pan-Arab and Islamic causes. It used, the paper maintains, the cards of charlatanry it possesses as well as its propaganda machine to propagate this false claim among Arabs.

The paper goes on to say: Given the failure of the United States, its allies, and agents in the region, headed by the Saudi rulers, in their efforts to undermine Iraq and its steadfastness, the Saudi rulers found themselves compelled to engage in efforts aimed at identifying areas where they could make their presence felt. Furthermore, they showed a willingness to perform all that is required of them. However, this time, their games are being played in the open.

BABIL continues: And in this context falls the Saudi regime's "harassment" of Yemen. This regime has chosen to underscore a host of secondary issues to make them serve the declared objective, which has remained unchanged. It opted for this policy after it had become bankrupt domestically and on the Arab scene, and also after it had become notorious for its public agentry, particularly before the eyes of OPEC members. The paper points out that this show of harassment is merely an attempt to distract attention from what is taking place in Saudi Arabia. This regime, the paper notes, is fabricating external crises.

The paper adds that the ruling family in the Arabian Peninsula is performing tasks required by clandestine agreements, treaties, and pledges. It affirms that the new tasks of this regime are being exposed day in and day out after it continued for several decades to disguise itself as a party that strives to promote Arab and Islamic causes and professes to work for closing Arab ranks.

Reportage on OPEC Roles, Return to Oil Market

OPEC 'Unstable' Due To Saudis, UAE

JN3105095392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0702 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stated that nine oil projects will be inaugurated tomorrow, Monday, on the 20th anniversary of the glorious oil nationalization decision.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the minister noted that these projects will ensure increasing the crude oil storage and pumping capacity with the aim of reaching the pre-30-state aggression production level. [passage omitted]

The minister noted that OPEC conditions are unstable because Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] are trying to impose their will on the organization. He said that Saudi Arabia and the UAE have outproduced their quota and raised the OPEC daily production ceiling to more than 23.5 million barrels, leading to a drop in world market prices. [passage omitted]

Return to Oil Market Demanded

JN3105115492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0954 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—The National, Progressive, and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has appealed to the world community to play its legal, moral, and humanitarian role to end the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a statement issued on the eve of the celebrations due to be held tomorrow to mark the 20th anniversary of the oil nationalization, the NPPF added: The interests of the international oil market as well as the interests of oil-producing countries, which are being sabotaged by Saudi Arabia and Iran, dictate that all well-meaning persons all over the world work to end the blockade and secure the return of Iraq to the oil market.

The NPPF went on to say: Lifting the economic blockade would allow Iraq to reassume its international role, which earned the appreciation of honest members of OPEC and also the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The NPPF statement stressed that the success of nationalization was one of the motives which prompted the hostile U.S. imperialism and its allies to conspire against Iraq and to shackle the region by hegemony and domination in order to steal the oil wealth for the benefit of colonialist powers.

The statement concluded by saying: The Iranian-Zionist aggression on Iraq over a period of eight years as well as the U.S. aggression were aimed at obstructing the course of progress and development, demolishing the national edifice, and imposing imperialist hegemony on Arab natural resources, primarily oil.

Minister Comments on Nationalization

JN3105173992 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 31, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said the nationalisation decision whose process of its planning and implementation was led by President Saddam Husayn constitutes a historic turning-point in the life of the people of Iraq.

The minister confirmed in a news conference held today on the 20th anniversary of the nationalisation decision efficiency of the Iraqi oil technical cadres and their capability of facing the difficulties interrupting the process of exporting Iraqi oil. And he pointed that the Iraqi oil would be exported sooner or later and Iraq would have a significant role in the world oil market.

He made it clear that work was now under way for finding new outlets for marketing the Iraqi oil and concentrating on increasing the export capacity via al-Bakr terminal to one million barrels a day.

The Iraqi oil minister has pointed out that Iraq is always keen to building a good foundation of mutual confidence with consumers that expressed their full readiness to receive Iraqi oil immediately after the resumption of exporting due to the important role of Iraq in the world oil market and its being occupying [as received] the second position among the OPEC member states with regard to oil reserves.

The minister has further said the importing companies are keen to maintain their strong relations with Iraq with the aim of obtaining their needs and securing stability of flow of oil for long periods and to guaranteeing the process of getting oil continuously.

The Iraqi oil minister added that his ministry was always endeavouring for developing Iraq's productive capacity through increasing it to six and a half million barrels per day instead of six million barrels in a period ranging between four and five years.

He has made it clear that new exploration operations would be carried out in the governorate of Salah al-Din and Wasit with the purpose of developing our southern fields including the development of the west al-Qurnah field.

Presidential Decree Issued on Redistricting

JN3105140692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 May 92 p 4

[Presidential Decree No. 240 dated 26 May 1992]

[Text] Based on the provisions of Article Four of the amended Governorates Law No. 159 for 1969, we have decreed the following:

The subdistrict of al-Latifiyah, with all its administrative borders, shall be disengaged from al-Mahawil district in the Babil Governorate and linked to al-Mahmudiyah district in the Baghdad Governorate.

The minister of interior shall implement this decree.

This decree was written in Baghdad on 25 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1412 hegira, corresponding to 26 May 1992.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Decree: Prices of Cereals Increased

JN3105121992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that the prices at which rice is purchased from peasants and farmers during the current agricultural season be increased as follows:
The 'Anbar brand: The old price per tonne was 1,700 dinars. The new price per tonne will be 5,000 dinars.
The Naggazah brand: The old price per tonne was 1,700 dinars. The new price per tonne will be 5,000 dinars.
The Mishkhab brand: The old price per tonne was 1,200 dinars. The new price per tonne will be 4,000 dinars.
All other brands: The old price per tonne was 700 dinars. The new price per tonne will be 3,000 dinars.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on the occasion of this noble gesture by leader President Saddam Husayn appealed to peasants and farmers to expand their cultivation of rice, take care of it, and increase the production of each dunum of this crop to contribute toward breaking the unfair blockade and to enhance our people's steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-Zionist aggression schemes.

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, yesterday ordered that the prices at which wheat and barley are purchased from peasants and farmers who are marketing their crops during the current season be increased. This is a reward for their high motivation in marketing cereals. These increases apply to the cereals marketed as of the beginning of this season. The State Enterprise for Cereal Trade shall be tasked with paying the differentials for all marketers.

Leader President Saddam Husayn also ordered that the prices at which corn is purchased for the current summer season be increased.

Kurdistan Legislative Council Ends Spring Session

JN3105153892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Makhmur, 31 May (INA)—The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region marked the end of its spring session today by meeting in Makhmur District, Irbil Governorate, under the chairmanship of Council Speaker Ahmad Baha' al-Din.

The session was attended by Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, president of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and the secretaries general of the Autonomous Region's departments. Baha' al-Din Ahmad began the meeting by stressing the importance of continuing the work and exerting the utmost efforts to extend the best services possible to the region's inhabitants. He noted the role of the permanent committees in following the plans and programs of the general secretariats and in implementing the service projects needed by the Autonomous Region. The speaker of the Legislative Council denounced the wicked imperialist and Zionist conspiracies being carried out by the agents of foreigners in the Autonomous Region against the interests of our Kurdish people and our dear Iraq; namely, the comedy of the elections and their shameful results. These elections themselves have proved their total failure, their illegitimacy, and their lack of every constitutional and legal concept.

The speaker and members of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region renewed, on behalf of our Kurdish people, their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to exert every effort and to make every sacrifice to defend Iraq's unity and its mujahid people. They also stressed their readiness to remain loyal soldiers to protect the gains and principles of the 17-30 July revolution.

It has been learned that the Legislative Council's spring session began the first week of April and has lasted for two months. It held seven working ordinary meetings and discussed the work and reports of the Council's permanent committees.

Daily Criticizes West's Position on Turkish Kurds

JN3105140292 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 31, INA—The English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said Kurds in Turkey seem united in their demand for national rights in a state that has so far refused to acknowledge Kurdish as the Kurds' national language. There could be of course varying viewpoints.

A paper editorial here today added that this is exactly what the United States and its allies have cited to justify their intervention in Iraq's internal affairs. Given that Iraqi Kurds enjoy more rights than elsewhere in the world, the US-led unholy alliance is accordingly demanded to reshuffle its priorities as far as Kurds are concerned. Turkish Kurds who enjoy no rights whatsoever should thus top the US-drawn list of human rights.

The Iraqi paper further said but the Kurdish cause seems to have been too politicised to lend itself to political logic. [sentence as received] Some Kurds are being used as a tool to undermine a certain country. If not so, Bush, Major and Mitterrand should have been alarmed at what is being done to Turkish Kurds.

It further pointed out that recent reports claiming that the Iraqi Army was poised for an alleged drive against Kurds was enough to prompt the US-led coalition to sound the alarm about a "possible genocide" of Iraqi Kurds. Ignoring Iraq's denial of such reports, the U.S. and its allies did not even wait to verify the allegation. Any small incident or a skirmish is magnified, with Jalal Talabani being the crying wolf.

However, Talabani and other Iraqi Kurdish "leaders" have so far failed to demand a slap on Turkey's wrist or to show any form of solidarity with their brothers in blood. Could, in today's politics, one Kurd's meat be another Kurd's poison? Or do all Kurds still share the same cause, the daily questioned.

Editor on Reasons for Publication Halt During War

JN2705193892 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 May 92 p 8

[Excerpt] Dr. Nabil Mughrabi, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Paris-based newspaper AL-MUHARRIR, has, for the first time, revealed the reasons behind the suspension of that paper's publication one day before the 30-state aggression on Iraq. The paper's suspension continued until after the aggression.

He explained these reasons to AL-JUMHURIYAH by saying: A propaganda campaign was launched before the Gulf war by the anti-Iraq forces, represented in the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and U.S. media organs. These organs intensified their campaign by financing the hostile media organs with the aim of affecting the Iraqi position on the causes of the Arab nation and its demands for the legitimate rights of this nation. Saudi media organs, in particular, were active and aimed to abort or stop any voice that supported Iraq.

In fact there was a magazine, KULL AL-'ARAB, that was closed, and there were newspapers and magazines that supported Iraq which have also been closed or prevented from publishing as a result of the influence and bribes of these organs. However, they could not stop AL-MUHARRIR because it was—and still is—a French company, set up by French funds, established on the basis of a legal formula that does not allow for its closure.

He added that since the establishment of this newspaper, he has joined the French Press Union, the Federation of French Newspaper Proprietors, and the journalists unions accredited to the Elysee. He said he published four issues, but the newspaper ceased publication one day before the aggression on Iraq. [Saudi King] Fahd personally summoned the French ambassador in Riyadh to convey to him the Saudi regime's objection against AL-MUHARRIR's positions, which Fahd alleged were hostile to his regime.

Dr. Mughrabi added that at this point he faced an unpredictable problem. How? He asks and answers: When the war of aggression broke out with French participation, the continuation of the paper's publication became impossible. Otherwise, he would personally have been in violation of an article appearing in the French publication law, that was worked out in 1911 before World War II [as published]. This article stipulates that any French publication that criticizes French or allied forces should cease publication or else face the charge of collaboration with a foreign country during a time of war. The penalty for this offense is 30 years in prison at hard labor. [passage omitted)

*Editorial Warns of Officials' 'Evil Entourage'

92AE0378A Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 Apr 92 p 1

[Editorial by Hamid Sa'id: "Evil Entourage"]

[Text] By my writing today, I don't mean to take a stand as an adviser, nor do I claim to be a teacher. This subject was not my choice to write about, because I try to write about obvious conditions. Harmful influences still plague many people of good intentions who were given an opportunity to assume responsibilities, which some correctly call responsibilities of public business, or rather, these influences go beyond those persons to encompass the horizons of our social lives.

What I mean by the words "evil entourage" is the individuals or groups who surround an official, or a position of responsibility, and impose a blockade around him that isolates him from reality and deprives him of his view of the truth.

Any distance from reality keeps the viewer from detecting the truth and makes him see things in a distorted fashion. The causes of error continue, and the results become solidified. The opportunity for correction diminishes or is lost completely. The error is not in any one area of life, or in any limits of responsibility, or a shame. However, the shame is in continuing the error and not understanding the reasons that led to it. The only way to correct any mistake, whether large or small, is by getting close to the pulse of daily life, opening up its fields, and seeing them directly, without relying on impaired or distorted means of contact.

The evil entourage is not something that just separates the position of responsibility from the human milieu, but rather, it is action against the truth in all its dimensions. In many cases, and in many positions, it is the ability to impose its view on individuals and officials, putting the error in a favorable light, and leading them toward delusion and deviation, causing them to, as God said, substitute he who is lower for he who is good. The evil entourage could follow a negative course. It does not point out mistakes, nor point to excesses or deviations, or protest over uselessly squandered blood. It is a mute devil that remains quiet about the truth.

All those who are considered part of the evil entourage are not marked by ignorance or a lack of feeling about responsibility, or attempting to avoid whatever might lead to problems and differences. On the contrary, they include the qualified and the intelligent, but they do not use their abilities or brains for good and for the public interest.

Accordingly, we can find examples of those who play a studied role in sabotage and in consolidating error and deviation. One can cite many examples where evil entourages are seen to play a role in the life of mankind. They embody positions of greed and extremism in playing roles that [even] the most hostile enemies are incapable of carrying out, including their most serious tasks of keeping the best people and sincere nationalists out of sensitive and influential positions.

Among the practices of the evil entourage is the fact that it causes the center that it surrounds to be subordinate to it, the executor of its decisions, and committed to whatever it wants, rather than the other way around. It works to consolidate delusion in the minds of those it surrounds, and compels them to believe that all the statements issued or deeds done by them are the truth, which could not come from any other quarter. Any observation issued by others is nothing but an expression of their resentment and envy. The charges might be magnified, reaching the point of maligning the nationalism and morality of those who point out error and attempt to correct it.

The evil entourage tries to suggest to some of those who assume positions of responsibility that the period in which they assumed the responsibility in this or that bureau, or this or that agency, is the only time that those bureaus or agencies have operated in a positive way. Before that, conditions were bad, and the only time that passed was wasted time.

For example, sometimes we read statements of one of the governors, agency heads, or ministers, in which they discuss the limits of their responsibility, except that they talk as if they had accomplished miracles. Everyone who had that responsibility before them had done nothing. Some of their speeches suggest that they are the messengers of divine providence sent to correct the mistakes of their predecessors.

Sometimes, when I listen to their speeches and statements, I ask: Aren't you forgetting, if only for a moment, that the Revolution of 17-30 July is now a quarter century old, a time that has seen major accomplishments on various levels throughout Iraq, and the work of all those struggling, sincere, diligent officials?

When I search for the causes of this delusion, I find that the evil entourage is one of its main causes. It is known that the evil entourage has played its role with all of their predecessors, especially those in whom it found a readiness for delusion. It is also known that it will play the same role with future officials.

It will mark the official whose responsibility has ended with the same qualities with which it marked those who preceded him.

*Support for Freedom of Expression Analyzed

92AE0380A Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 14 Apr 92 p 1

[Editorial by Hani Wahib: "Democracy of Writers"]

[Text] From the outset, I must salute BABIL for inviting me to write for its pages. The most valuable of the initiatives of the chairman of its Board of Directors, our dear comrade, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, is his determination that the largest number of writers [possible] will share in expressing their views and ideas through "BABIL's democratic pulpit."

As we all know, democracy in our country has fundamental concepts and practices whose supports are anchored in our historic leader, Saddam Husayn. We have discussed many of their details. We writers have written a great deal about democratic concepts and practices in light of Saddam Husayn's democratic thinking. Moreover, many of us are breathless over the word "democracy" itself. I say, with all sincerity, that some of us who are excited over democracy should begin at the same starting point. From democracy, some want to be given freedom to write what they want, according to their preference. They decide that what they write is the truth, and that no untruth can lurk behind it. There is no thought for the freedom of others, or for their rights. Some of us writers become angry and upset when the official responsible for publishing does his job and cuts out a word or a sentence, or when he decides, upon his responsibility, that the article is unsuited for publication, even if the official clarifies the reasons for its unsuitability in writing or in a direct discussion with the writer.

At this point, we can bring up for discussion the balanced view of the writer's right and freedom of publication, and the right and duty of the editor or publisher to perform his role. Because of the flaw in this view of the chronic problems in our press, the writer thinks that people will only realize his creativity when he can write what he wishes and when his article appears as written, even if it vilifies or offends others, or if he writes irresponsibly. The editor—for his part—is anxious to exercise his functional and moral responsibility, in terms of determining that what is written in the newspaper he edits is in compliance with that newspaper's media and political goals.

Some publishing officials might pursue unjustified, narrow-minded goals, which could generate friction between writer and publisher or editor. In my opinion, the balanced, equitable view of the writer's right and freedom of activity, and the editor's right and obligation to oversee his publication, is a guarantee of overcoming this deficiency, when both parties have objectivity and a responsible grasp of the matter.

Some writers allow themselves to criticize everything—practices of state agencies, practices of citizens—and even criticize the leadership's political positions. However, when criticism is directed at his article by a colleague, or when the official quarter responds critically to his criticism, that is wrong and he rejects it. The credibility of many writers is weakened by that shortcoming. While we write that people are not democrats, and censure them for not tolerating criticism, we also cannot bear criticism. The words of the Arab poet apply to us: "Do not talk about morality unless you practice it".

Shame On You If You Do a Great Deed

Of course, our reference, indicating a truism that we live with and perceive, does not diminish the role of serious, critical writing that appears in our press. Through that writing, our writers exercise their role that is necessary to the process of building democrats and to how they comport themselves. However, we use our supports many times in self-discomfort and, consequently, our efforts flow into undesirable channels. It is much more appropriate for us to be committed to serious, focused writing!

I renew my invitation to write in "The Ink of Concern," which I began nearly a year ago in AL-THAWRAH.

We write about realities or jihad battles; about the historic meaning of our leader, Saddam Husayn; about the need to break the unjust economic blockade, about what is required to increase national productivity and what is needed to defeat the oppressive psychological and media warfare, so that we can establish a culture of creativity through the freedom of writing that safeguards the freedom of the whole, not just the freedom of ourselves.

We hope that all of us will follow the true path to freedom in order for democracy to flourish in our country, opening up millions of blossoms, and then the future will be ours, with God's help.

15 Cluster Bombs Defused in al-Qadisiyah

JN0106095492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0917 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Al-Diwaniyah, 1 Jun (INA)—The specialized organs of the Civil Defense Directorate have defused 15 cluster bombs in al-Qadisiyah Governorate. The bombs were dropped by the airplanes of the 30-state aggression on a farm close to al-Sadir railway station in the eastern Hamzah district.

The Civil Defense director told the INA correspondent in the governorate that the directorate continues to search for other unexploded bombs in order to defuse them.

'Terrorist Squad' Lands in Elat, Kills Guard

'Terrorists' Wounded, Killed in Attack

TA3005090892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0836 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] A terrorist squad landed on Elat beach this morning and murdered a guard at the maritime observatory. One terrorist was killed and a second was injured in a clash with the security forces. Here is our correspondent, Yo'av Aviv, with more details.

[Aviv] The terrorists landed on Elat beach at approximately 0645 [0335 GMT] this morning. It is believed that three terrorists in diving gear swam out from al-'Aqabah. Their weapons were carried in sealed cylinders. One of the terrorists apparently drowned en route. The others landed at Almog beach, near the Aqua Sport diving center in the southern part of the city, near Tabah. There were no bathers on the beach at such an early hour, and the terrorists made their way to the adjacent university observatories. They encountered a guard and shot him dead. The guard's family has been notified. A passing taxi driver noticed what was happening, drove on until he came to an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol, and alerted the soldiers. A shoot-out ensued; one terrorist was killed and the second was injured. The injured terrorist was taken for interrogation. The entire Elat area was closed off to traffic, and the residents and tourists were forbidden to leave their apartments and hotel rooms. The IDF and the police dispatched large forces to Elat, and Israel Air Force helicopters flew in reinforcements. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, arrived at the scene to follow developments closely. The wounded terrorist said the squad had intended to carry out a mass slaughter at one of Elat's beaches this morning. The terrorists belonged to a religious organization. These are the first details we have, and we will provide updates later.

Roadblocks Lifted; Beaches Reopened

TA3005092492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] A short time after the clash with the terrorist squad, the security forces closed off the city of Elat and the international border crossings. They evacuated the beaches and forbade sailing in the Gulf of Elat. Roadblocks were set up in the city, and extensive searches were carried out.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the chief of staff and commander of the Southern Command rushed to Elat. Additional security forces were also dispatched to the city. The roadblocks were lifted in the city at approximately 1100, and the residents were permitted to move around freely and go to the beaches. An initial investigation reveals that the terrorists apparently belonged to a religious organization. They intended to carry out a mass terrorist attack on one of the beaches. The terrorists were carrying a large quantity of weapons. Our correspondent points out that it is exactly two years since the terrorist attack on the Nitzanim beach.

Jordan Blamed

TA3005105192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Life has returned to normal on Elat's beaches after two terrorists landed on the beach and murdered a guard at the university maritime institute. Our correspondents Yehudit Silberstein and Yo'av Aviv reported that the two terrorists swam across the bay, landed on the beach, and walked to the maritime institute. When the guard approached them, they shot him dead. The terrorists continued walking toward Almog beach, shooting wildly in all directions. They placed a LAW [Light Antitank Weapon] on the road between Elat and Tabah. Citizens who heard the shots alerted the police. The police shot at the terrorists and managed to pin them down until Army reinforcements arrived. The soldiers, who were paratroopers on reserve duty, rushed the two terrorists, killing one of them and wounding the other. The wounded man was operated on in Yoseftal Hospital and is reported to be in moderate condition. The two terrorists were wearing blue track suits and flak jackets. They were equipped with diving suits and floats, and they also carried Korans. Kalashnikov rifles and hand grenades were also found in their possession. The security forces organized quickly, and three ambulances with 25 paramedics rushed to the site. The chief of staff, the commander of the Southern Command, and the commander of the Israeli Navy also arrived on the scene.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that a fanatic Islamic Palestinian organization was behind the attack. He placed responsibility for the incident on Jordan, because the terrorists had set out from inside Jordanian territory.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew in a similar report at 1012 GMT carries a short statement by Chief of Staff Baraq, who says: "We do not have enough details yet. The attack was only foiled a few short hours ago. We may be able to get some more information out of the terrorist who survived. At any rate, we consider Jordan the party that must make a supreme effort to prevent terrorist attacks from its territory."]

Air Force Strikes Hizballah Targets in Lebanon

TA3105084792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this morning attacked terrorist targets in Lebanon. This was reported by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. A target housing the training headquarters of the Hizballah organization was attacked in the village of Janta in al-Biqa'. Terrorist targets in Majdal Silm and Bi'r al-Salasil were also attacked. The targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base.

Army Denies Antiaircraft Fire

TA3105190192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] After a few days' lull, Israel Air Force planes again attacked Hizballah targets in Lebanon this morning. Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports that the planes operated in the area of the al-Biqa' village of Janta, in the vicinity of which Syrian forces are deployed. AFP reported today that the planes came under antiaircraft fire, but Israeli military sources denied any knowledge of it.

Helicopter raids were also carried out today against Hizballah targets in Majdal Silm and Bi'r al-Sanasil. Residents of these villages are fleeing north.

Military elements have told our correspondent that as long as no tangible change is discerned in the Hizballah course of action, the pressure on its positions in Lebanon will continue. The elements noted that although Hizballah activities have abated in recent days, its men continue attacking SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts.

Reportage on Election Campaigns, Party Platforms

Kahana Hay Submits Amended Election List

TA3105192492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] All the technical flaws that prevented the Kahana Hay list from being viewed by the Central Elections Committee [CEC], have been rectified. The list now includes 600 additional supporters, as required by the law.

The CEC chairman was also satisfied that the U.S. citizenship of the head of the list, Binyamin Kahana, has indeed been revoked.

Our Knesset correspondent reports that although the list has been amended, the CEC will most likely disqualify it in the course of its session on Wednesday, when it is scheduled to discuss granting final approval to Kahana Hay and all the other lists. Like Kakh, Kahana Hay is expected to be disqualified for inciting to racism and for the list's nonacceptance of the State of Israel's democratic regime.

Likud Ad Stresses Unity of Jerusalem, Defense

TA3105112192

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0432 GMT on 31 May airs a further batch of election campaign ads by Likud, Labor, Yahadut Hatora, Moledet, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

In the Likud ad, broadcast at 0432 GMT, an unidentified female announcer presents Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who says:

"The State of Israel, under the leadership of the Likud, will continue to preserve the unity and indivisibility of Jerusalem. The Likud Government will continue to develop, to build, and to settle Jerusalem. The Likud will continue to expand and to strengthen the belt of Jewish settlements which protects the capital from all sides. We will continue to allow free access to the holy sites for members of all religions. United Jerusalem has been and will continue to be the capital of Israel for all eternity."

The unidentified female announcer now introduces Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who says:

"These days we mark Israel's great military and political accomplishments: the Six-Day War, the liberation of Jerusalem, the Peace for Galilee campaign. We remember our fallen comrades, those who paid the supreme price in their effort to guarantee Israel's existence and security. These days we also bury our dear ones, the victims of murderous Arab terror. Our entire people keenly feel the pain. However, even in these very days, discordant voices are heard, voices which attribute military accomplishments to a certain party and its leaders and ostensible failures to another party and its leaders. As someone who served for many years as a foot soldier and as an officer in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], I would like to note and stress: The IDF is not a partisan army. The IDF is the people's army. Members of all parties and political groups have fought in its ranks. While in battle, I never thought that I represented a certain party. I, myself, while commanding the 101st unit and the paratroopers, did not behave as a party member. Who was thinking about parties then? When I commanded the division that opened the road to the Sinai Peninsula in the Six-Day War, I was not thinking of the party's founding fathers, I was thinking of the burning need to eliminate the threat to Israel's existence. When I wiped out terrorist activity in Gaza, I was driven by the need to protect Jewish lives, not by the party's platform. When I crossed the Suez Canal with my forces in the Yom Kippur War, I was not thinking of any party functionary. I am bemused by this new and foreign style adopted by the alignment and the left-wing parties led by Rabin. Do they intend to turn Israel's defense into a partisan issue? Is this their new message? What are they waiting for in the alignment?"

Labor Platform Vows Compromise 'In All Sectors'

TA3105105592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 May 92 pp A1, 10

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Labor has promised to stop immediately the establishment of new settlements and not to expand existing settlements in the territories, except for those in the Jerusalem area and the Jordan Rift Valley if it takes over the government.

The Labor platform, worked out and approved by the campaign headquarters' steering committee which convened this weekend, also states that during political negotiations Israel will avoid moves and actions which would disrupt the negotiations and will freeze the establishment of new settlements for one year.

Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, chairman of the platform committee, said last night that this is in fact a Labor commitment to cease investment in the territories in order to divert the funds to creating new jobs, immigrant absorption, and treatment of slum neighborhoods and development towns.

From the initial details made available last night, it appears that the Labor platform promises territorial compromise in all sectors, including the Golan Heights, and includes a commitment to implement autonomy within "the shortest possible time" (between six and nine months). Labor is also offering significant tax reductions for individuals and companies, the abolition of various customs, and legislation introducing free kindergarten attendance. It also introduces legislation canceling mortgage repayment linkage to the cost of living [COL] index.

The Labor platform was worked out over the past two months by a special committee headed by MK Eli Dayan and included MK David Liba'i, chairman of the campaign headquarter's steering committee and of the party's constitutional committee. The full steering committee held a discussion Friday on the platform, in which several reservations were voiced, especially over the wording of the political section and the extent of Labor's readiness to reach a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Dayan said last night that the full platform was approved on Friday. He said that most of it is based on resolutions approved by the party convention about six months ago. He added that the platform introduces new aspects to several issues of principle, the most important of which are the assurance to stop immediately investments in the territories, a precise definition of the readiness for territorial compromise in all sectors, a promise to hold serious negotiations with the Palestinian delegation and to implement autonomy within the shortest possible time.

"We decided to issue this time a short platform with clear messages so that the public understands precisely what Labor aspires to and what changes it will introduce if it wins the elections and sets up the next government. I have no doubt that our decision to specify in the clearest terms possible in our platform that if we take over the government we will stop immediately all investment in the territories and in settlements and that those revenues will be diverted to creating jobs and immigrant absorption will contribute greatly to our chances of winning the elections," Dayan said.

The economic section of the platform is most interesting. It is clearly aimed at the business sector and includes previously unacceptable terms and expressions. Among other things, it refers to significant reductions in taxes and customs. It says that a Labor-led government will act gradually and significantly to reduce the tax burden on individuals and companies and to raise the tax ceiling and tax brackets for individuals. Labor will also act to reduce customs and the purchase tax.

Labor promises to reduce the burden on nonprofit organizations and opposes the imposition of taxes on national insurance pensions. It also stresses that a government it heads will abolish regulations discriminating against the business and self-employed sectors, will reform the national insurance law, and will try to get the social welfare burden on the self-employed recognized for tax purposes. A married woman employed outside the home will also be recognized as an independent individual for tax purposes. Government involvement in the economy will be reduced as much as possible.

In the field of education, Labor promises to keep the Education Ministry in its hands and not to transfer it to any other party. It also promises to try to make education for three- to five-year-olds free, to extend the school day, and to renew school meal programs. Labor also promises to improve the status of teachers and to cut down the size of classrooms.

On housing, Labor promises to aspire to cease the linkage of mortgage repayments to the COL index and to reduce the burden for young couples and those seriously hit by existing mortgage interest rates.

In government and democracy, Labor promises that the elections for the 14th Knesset will have direct election of the prime minister and MK's, half on a regional basis and half in a national list.

The main innovations in the political-security section are the promise to implement immediately autonomy in the territories and the statement that Labor will be prepared for a territorial compromise in all sectors, in accordance with UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Labor promises to conduct "real" negotiations with the Palestinian delegation and to take all the necessary steps, including budgetary measures, to assure the safety of the inhabitants of the State of Israel.

In Friday's deliberations by the steering team, the section dealing with a peace settlement with Syria did not include the reference to territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. MK Yosi Beilin appealed claiming that the wording of the platform contradicts the resolutions approved by the party conference, which clearly support territorial compromise with Syria. MK Dayan claimed that the political section begins with a clear reference to a compromise in all sectors. Finally, the committee accepted the proposal made by MK Moshe Shahal, acting campaign headquarters chairman, that Labor undertakes to hold peace negotiations with Syria without preconditions and on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, which clearly refer to territorial compromise.

The political section also stresses a Labor commitment to the integrity of Jerusalem and to preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state, although one of the clauses in the platform states that various proposals for a compromise solution in the region might be accepted in the coming years.

Cabinet Discusses Negev Deaths, Elat Incident

TA3105153592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The prime minister says that the two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who lost their lives in the intense heat in the south died unjustifiably, which is a very troubling point. The families and citizens have full confidence that the IDF does everything it can to take care of soldiers, but something was amiss in this case. He called on the IDF to pay attention to issues such as this no less than to operational ones. The public should know that everything is being done to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Yitzhaq Shamir said this during the weekly cabinet meeting.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq said that the two soldiers lost their lives due to a heat stroke rather than lack of water. The conclusions of the committee that looked into the matter will be submitted tomorrow. At the same time, Baraq noted, the number of accidents and casualties during training is on the decline.

At today's cabinet meeting the chief of staff also commented on yesterday's murder in Elat, saying that the two terrorists who had not reached Elat apparently drowned on the way. In this context, the defense minister said that Israel holds Jordan responsible for the departure of the terrorists. For its part, Jordan has rejected this attribution of responsibility.

Germany Grants 1 Million Marks in Absorption Aid

TA2905132692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 May 92 p 4

[Report by Bonn correspondent Gad Li'or]

[Text] Germany has categorically rejected Israel's request for 10 billion Deutsche marks [DM] in aid to absorb immigrant scientists from the CIS. Instead, it has decided to grant a sum of only DM 1 million, approximately 1.5 million shekels.

The aid, which has been promised by German Research and Technology Minister Heinz Reisenhuber, was welcomed by officials at the Israeli Embassy in Bonn and at the Foreign, Science, and Absorption ministries.

Further Reportage on Violence Around Country

Hamas Claims Rapp, Biran Killings

TA3105072592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for the murders of Rabbi Shim'on Biran from Kfar Darom and high school student Helena Rapp from Bat Yam. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the organization wrote notices assuming responsibility for the two murders on the walls of houses in Gaza.

The closure on the Gaza Strip will continue today. The al-Mughazi, al-Nusayrat, and al-Burayj refugee camps in the central part of the Gaza Strip and the Dayr al-Balah area have been placed under curfew. Five residents were injured by a gas explosion in al-Burayj and taken to the hospital for treatment.

Cabinet Discusses Murders, Expulsions

TA3105103592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav demanded the expulsion of the 11 intifadah activists whose appeals are being heard by the High Court of Justice. The cabinet also discussed the terrorist murders in Kfar Darom and Bat Yam. Jack Katzenell has an update:

Housing Minister Sharon and Transport Minister Qatzav expressed impatience with the delay caused by appeals to the High Court of Justice against the expulsion orders. In the wake of the latest terrorist murders, Qatzav and Sharon felt there was a need for swift action against agitators and intifadah activists. They urged the attorney general, Yosef Harish, to ask the High Court of Justice to speed up the hearing of the Palestinians' appeal against their expulsion. But the attorney general told the ministers it is not customary to ask the High Court of Justice to get a move on. After the cabinet meeting, I asked Moshe Qatzav if he supports the demand of the Kfar Darom residents for the expulsion of 2,000 intifadah leaders. He replied that he does not support mass expulsions; however, he does support the death penalty for the worst cases of terrorist murder. Then it was he who had first suggested banning unmarried Palestinians under 30 years of age from entering Israel. He told me this proposal is now being considered by the security authorities.

A number of ministers demanded that the settlement of Kfar Darom be expanded in the wake of the murder of Rabbi Biran. On another subject, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i told the cabinet that if Arabs are allowed to enter Bat Yam and there is renewed violence, their lives could be in danger. It is up to the government to take steps to ensure that there are no more murders in broad daylight in the heart of the country, Moda'i said.

Arab Saves Jewish Couple From Attack

TA2905111292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] An Arab merchant from the Gaza Strip prevented three terrorists from attacking a couple of Jewish merchants who were visiting his greenhouse in the northern sector of the strip. The merchant hid the woman in his home and defended her husband with his own body. The Gazan was wounded in the attack, and the terrorists fled. The Israeli merchants were unharmed. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one of the terrorists was armed with a Kalashnikov submachine and the two others had knives. The Army closed the area, set up roadblocks, and began a manhunt for the terrorists.

Near Janin, two residents of Samaria, who had permission from the security forces to possess arms, were killed yesterday and a third was wounded by shots fired by soldiers attached to the special units. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldiers believed that they were armed terrorists. After the incident, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman in the Central Command reported that the three had aimed their weapons at the soldiers, who were on an initiated operation, and the soldiers shot at them.

Youth Stabbed, Injured in Jerusalem

TA3105141492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] A 17-year-old was stabbed in the Meqor Hayim neighborhood in Jerusalem, apparently by two Arabs. He was slightly injured in the shoulder and is expected to be released from the hospital today. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the youth said that as he was walking home from school two youths, who appeared Arab to him, passed going the other way. Suddenly they turned and attacked him in the back with knives. He was slightly injured and carried to a nearby yeshiva, where he related the incident. Large police and Border Police forces are searching the area. Nine Arabs have been picked up so far and are currently undergoing interrogation. The police called on the public to increase its vigilance.

Policeman Accused of Rioting, Beating Arab

TA0106050792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Three Palestinians were injured yesterday in the Gaza Strip when troops opened fire to disperse rioters. The riots broke out in the al-Shati' and al-Burayj refugee camps in Gaza, after a 17-year-old youth died shortly after being released from custody. Residents charged he died due to ill treatment by security forces, but a doctor who examined him found no sign of this.

In Nabulus, three Molotov cocktails were thrown at an Israeli bus last night. Nobody was hurt and there was no damage. Security forces searched the area.

Two petrol bombs were thrown at an Army patrol in al-'Izziyah village near Tulkarm, but nobody was hurt. A curfew was imposed.

In Hebron, a firebomb was thrown at an Arab-owned car but it missed.

The High Court of Justice has issued a temporary injunction barring security forces from destroying the home of Fu'ad al-'Amarin, the suspect being held for the murder of Helena Rapp in Bat Yam. The court order was issued at the request of al-'Amarin's father, who lives in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The father claimed his son lived in a separate apartment and, therefore, there was no room to punish the whole family by destroying their residence.

The Tel Aviv District Court will today hear a prosecution request that a border policeman be remanded in custody until the end of proceedings against him. The policeman, Eli Malka from Bat Yam, was accused of taking part in a riot in which an Arab from Hebron was beaten up with clubs. This was in the disturbances after the murder of 15-year-old Helena Rapp.

Entry of Elat Infiltrators From Jordan Disputed

'No Evidence' Men Crossed From Jordan

JN3105092692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Commenting on yesterday's Israeli story about the infiltration of a group of persons into the Elat area, a responsible Jordanian source has said: The competent quarters have no evidence that persons had crossed from the Jordanian side to the other side of the Gulf of Aqaba. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the source added that it is known that several countries' borders converge at the Gulf of Aqaba and, consequently, it is difficult to decisively determine the route these persons took to reach Elat.

Minister Cited on Incident

JN0106064092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan does not believe Israel's account of a raid on the southern coast by guerrillas who swam in from the sea, a senior official was quoted as saying Sunday.

The official told Reuters it was physically impossible for them to swim to the Israeli town of Elat from Jordan, as the Israeli army asserted, and there was no firm proof they had done so.

Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said guerrilla attacks on Israel from all sides could be expected until the Arab-Israeli conflict was resolved.

Another official quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that there was no proof that the guerrillas came from Jordan.

The Israeli army had asserted the guerillas swam from al-'Aqabah to Elat and killed a guard before troops gunned them down. It held Jordan accountable for the attack.

"The concerned authorities do not have any proof that some people crossed from Jordan," the official told Petra.

He pointed out that the borders of several countries touch the Gulf of Aqaba and so "it is difficult to know for sure the route that these people took to reach Elat."

Egypt and Saudi Arabia also have borders that touch on the northern neck of the Gulf of Aqaba.

One senior official on Saturday told the AP in Amman "We are surprised by this event and we are currently investigating the matter."

"We are sceptical of the Israeli statement... we have no conclusive evidence that these people have crossed from the Jordanian side to the Israeli side," said the senior official quoted by Reuters.

"It is not conceivable that these people crossed with all this equipment," he added.

Information Minister al-Sharif said: "These incidents in general will unfortunately continue to happen from all sides in the absence of complete peace in the region."

Jordan was committed to peace along the frontier, he added in remarks to Reuters.

'Arafat Arrives in Amman; Urges Israel Sanctions

JN3105124492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has urged the two sponsors of the peace negotiations—the United States and Russia—to impose international sanctions on Israel for shelling southern Lebanon and for oppressing the Palestinian people, similar to the sanctions imposed on Libya and those the Security Council has imposed on the Serbs.

In statements to the press on his arrival in Amman from Damascus today, 'Arafat stressed that at dawn, he had asked the PLO representative to the United Nations to urge the Security Council to adopt disciplinary resolutions against what he described as the extremist Zionist entity. Pointing to the Palestinians' commitment to the peace march, 'Arafat said: No one believes that we have no other alternatives; the Palestinians' patience has limits.

Regarding his talks with Jordanian King Husayn, the first in five months, 'Arafat said that they will deal with the PLO's efforts to impose international sanctions on Israel and also will assess the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and their impact on the Arab issues, on the understanding that Amman will host on 3 June a quadripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the head of the PLO Political Department.

Urges End to 'Oppressive Israeli Measures'

JN3105134192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman today on an official visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. Mr. 'Arafat said that the purpose of his visit is to discuss issues of concern to the Arab nation, particularly that of the Palestine question and Jerusalem, and to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the various rounds of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks and their impact on Arab issues and the Palestine question.

He added that he had discussed the same subjects with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Their talks, he noted, stressed the need to bring about a unified Arab position at this stage in order to confront the challenges facing our nation.

Asked about the continued oppressive Israeli oppressive in the occupied territories and Israel's aggression against Lebanon, 'Arafat said that these acts constitute a challenge to the United States and Russia since they are the peace conference cosponsors and witnesses to the Israeli crimes.

President 'Arafat urged the United States, Russia, and the international community to act decisively to stop the crimes being perpetrated against women, children, and sacred places. He also urged an end to the confiscation of lands and the building of settlements and the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is being violated by the Israeli authorities and Army daily.

Accompanied by Hurani, 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN3105155292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpts] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman at noon today. He is on an official visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and top Jordanian officials. [passage omitted]

'Arafat noted that he has asked Palestine's UN representative to urge the UN Security Council to take disciplinary measures against Israel. He indicated that he will also raise this point with His Majesty King Husayn. He criticized the double standards of international legitimacy which, he said, does not take account of the plight of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat is accompanied on his visit to Amman by a delegation comprising PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. On hand to greet his excellency were Dhuqan al- Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, and a number of other officials.

Meets With King Husayn

JN3105174992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting at the guest palace this evening. They reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian ties and coordination. They also discussed the Middle East peace process and the bilateral and multilateral talks associated with it.

Speaking to our political affairs correspondent upon his arrival in Amman earlier today, the Palestinian president called Israel's continued arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab territories and its aggressions against Lebanon a challenge to the United States and Russia as cosponsors of the peace conference.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am glad to be in Amman where I will be meeting with my kinfolk, brothers, and dear ones. I will confer with his majesty the king and with brother officials about everything that concerns the Arab nation, above all the Palestinian issue and holy Jerusalem, in order for us to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the bilateral and multilateral talks. We will evaluate their implications for our Arab issues, particularly that of the Palestinian cause. My brother President al-Asad and I emphasized in our disucssions the need for a united Arab front at this juncture so that we can tackle the challenges facing the Arab nation. [end recording]

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0106062692 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat held talks at the guest palace last night on Jordanian- Palestinian ties and joint coordination.

They also discussed bilateral and multilateral talks of the Arab- Israeli peace process.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Mr. 'Arafat later met at a working dinner for a review of regional developements and their impact on peace efforts.

At the meeting, which was attended by officials from both sides, they also discussed joint action by Arab parties to the peace talks. They said that Israeli intransigence and inhuman practices in the occupied territories, as well as Israeli attacks on south Lebanon would jeopardize the peace process.

Further on Reaction to Israeli Attacks in South

Call for 'Self-Restraint' Criticized

NC3005094992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Condemning some positions towards the Islamic resistance, Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi said the American and agent voices that call on the victim to maintain self-restraint while the murderers are left unpunished must keep silent.

He added: We emphasize the need to abide by the brotherhood treaty with Syria and the need for the Lebanese Army to stand forcefully and honestly on the Islamic resistance side. We reject the withdrawal of any Syrian soldier from Lebanon before the last usurping Jewish soldier pulls out.

U.S Asked To Prove 'Credibility'

NC3105164292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni asked the United States to prove the credibility of the international legitimacy it applied to Iraq and Kuwait concerning the Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon.

He said the Lebanese resistance is the Lebanese people's resistance to occupation and that it is not alien to them, as Israel is trying to convey to the world.

The speaker was commenting at his home in Shmistar today about the Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon.

Further Reportage on Israeli Attacks in South

SLA Soldier Said Detained, Returned

NC3005060192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The Amal Movement announced that it detained South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier Hasan Nimr Mundhir from Markabah, surrendering him to the responsible Lebanese Army authorities in the south.

SLA Refutes Amal Detention Claim

NC3005101192 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] A responsible military source in the South Lebanese Army [SLA] refuted the Amal Movement claim that it detained a SLA soldier last night. The movement said it held Hasan Nimr Mundhir from Markabah, but our military correspondent—who looked into the claim—confirmed there is no soldier of that name in the SLA.

Israeli, SLA Positions Attacked

NC3005173892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Security sources reported that two Israeli helicopters raked the area of Tallat Bra'shit with machine-gun fire this afternoon after an attack on an Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in the region. Villages outside the security strip were shelled, including Bra'shit and Kafra.

Security sources in the south said that three Israeli army and SLA positions in the security strip came under fire this morning. The sources did not mention any casualties.

Antitank rockets were launched at an SLA post in Haddathah. The SLA responded by shelling the suburbs of Tibnin and Bra'shit.

Later, an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] was fired at a joint Israeli Army-SLA position overlooking Bra'shit. Israeli artillery responded by shelling the village, destroying two houses.

In the third attack, an Israeli post in Tirah was hit with five mortar shells. Israeli aircraft then raked the region with large-caliber machine guns.

Israel Renews 'Bombardment' in South

NC3105075192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Israeli occupation forces renewed their bombardment of the south's central sector at dawn today, bombarding the townships of Kafra and Yatar at 0100 and Tibnin and Bra'shit at 0400.

The attacks did not spare humanitarian institutions; Tibnin hospital was hit, causing panic among patients.

The occupation forces bombarded Haris, Kafr Tibnit, Shaqra, and al-Jumayjimiyah yesterday.

Syrians Fire on Raiding Israeli Planes

NC3105081592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0759 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Citing Hizballah's Voice of Islam radio in Ba'labakk, AFP reported a short time ago that Israeli warplanes launched a raid against a Hizballah base in the Janta area of al-Biqa' valley at 1015 today. An AFP correspondent in al-Biqa' adds that Syrian antiaircraft guns opened fire on the raiding aircraft.

Israeli aircraft attacked a Hizballah center in Janta on 21 May, killing six Hizballah members.

Hizballah Commanders' Homes Targeted

NC3105091892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] According to REUTER, Israeli military helicopters fired missiles at the homes of two local Hizballah commanders in the al-Biqa' area. The agency did not elaborate, but security reports say two Israeli Cobra helicopters attacked a house in Bi'r al-Sanasil, two houses in [name indistinct], and two in Majdal Silm at about 1100 today.

Israel threatened to continue its operations against Hizballah positions and said it would not exclude Hizballah leaders.

[In a similar report, AFP in English at 0901 GMT on 31 May adds the following:

["Israeli helicopter gunships also carried out a raid at 1100 (0800 GMT) against the village of Majdal Silm in south Lebanon, wounding a 15-year-old girl, Lebanese police said.

["The attack targeted a one-storey building that was totally destroyed by a rocket, he said."]

Hit Israeli Plane 'Seen on Fire'

NC3105111792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate: Those who believe fight in God's cause, and those who reject faith fight for evil. So fight against Satan's friends. Satan's cunning is feeble. [Koranic verses].

The treacherous Israeli aircraft renewed brutal attacks against al-Biqa' today, security sources saying the enemy warplanes barbarically attacked Janta at 1025. Hizballah and the Syrian Army's ground defenses fired at the raiding planes to stop their achieving their goals; the raiding planes failed and were defeated.

According to eyewitnesses, six Zionist planes participated in the treacherous raid, firing their missiles from a distance. Hizballah and the Syrian troops directed heavy antiaircraft fire at the enemy planes and hit one of them, which was seen on fire. That the aircraft changed its direction and headed south, while the others headed north west, proves that it was hit.

The raiding planes dropped foreign bodies [Ajsam Gharibah] in the area, so citizens should be cautious and not touch these objects.

Reports from the south say two Zionist Cobra helicopters raided five homes—one in Bi'r al-Sanasil, two in Majdal Silm, and two in Khurbat Silm—at around 1100 today. Reports say a 15-year old civilian girl was wounded in the barbaric raid against Majdal Silm.

Police Station Attacked

NC3105113292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Small- and medium-caliber weapons and rockets were used in an attack on al-Minyah police station and the surrounding area, including the high school and shops at 0230 today. There were no casualties, but there was material damage.

Al-Dinniyah Deputy Salih al-Khayr accused Israel's agents of executing the attack and held contacts with senior officials about the incident. In a statement, he said: I call on state officials to do everything they can to find the culprits of this incident, carried out by suspect individuals to ignite the security situation in the north.

Shells Fall Near Minister's Motorcade

NC0106055592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] In the latest developments in the south, the Israelis shelled Kafr Rumman, Habbush, and Tibnin. Several shells fell near State Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin's motorcade while he was in the area.

Yesterday, Israeli warplanes raided a Hizballah training camp in Janta in al-Biqa' near the Syrian border. Israeli helicopters also attacked the houses of two Hizballah officials in Majdal Silm and Bi'r al-Sanasil. Three citizens were wounded during the raids and the shelling.

Israeli Planes Conduct Mock Raids

NC0106090792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0849 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes are conducting mock air raids over Sidon, nearby camps, and other southern areas, particularly Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli overflights were also reported over Ba'labakk and western al-Biqa'. They drew Syrian and Hizballah antiaircraft fire.

Government Wins Vote of Confidence From Chamber

NC2905194292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1920 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The new government won a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies this evening by a majority of 76 votes. During the session—which ended tonight at approximately 2200—the following five deputies voted against the government: Shaykh Ilyas al-Khazin, Albert Mukhaybir, Hamid Dakrub, Edmond Rizq, and Butrus Harb. Three deputies abstained: Kamil al-As'ad, Anwar al-Sabbah, and Munif al-Khatib.

After the vote of confidence, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh said he is proud of the democratic spirit that dominated the debate. He stated that the government does not accept some deputies' statements about previous mistakes and expressed the hope that no one will hold this government responsible for what happened before it took power.

Al-Sulh stressed the importance of full solidarity in government work and indicated that the government made liberating the south a priority issue. It will work and struggle at all levels to secure the Israeli enemy's withdrawal from our land. It will also support the steadfastness of our people in their land and will give them all kinds of aid.

Al-Sulh Responds to Vote of Confidence

NC3005073992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 May 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh responding to the vote of confidence by the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut on 29 May—read by announcer]

[Text] We listened to your remarks during the debate. We noted every deputy's remarks and advice. I am dutybound to state the following:

1. We are proud of the free democratic spirit that dominated the debate; this atmosphere is the basis of our state. Everything on the minds of our citizens and every problem concerning them finds, under this roof, voices that speak out, ears that listen, and minds and hands that work to legislate, act, and supervise.

2. We will heed colleague deputies' criticisms of previous mistakes to avoid such mistakes in the future and to correct any defects. Obviously, no one blames this government for events before it assumed power.

3. Some deputies referred to solidarity in government work, and that is important. Serious work demands solidarity to achieve positive results. Its importance and necessity have been on our minds since our first ministerial meeting.

Honorable deputies, we must emphasize that liberating the dear south will be our primary issue; we will work and struggle on every front and by all means to achieve it, bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from our land. Our people and valiant Army offered one martyr after another in defense of their land and country. We will support our steadfast people. We will help them to stay in their villages and towns and to stand firm in the face of the Israeli enemy until the land is liberated and the last Israeli occupation soldier pulls out.

We thank the honorable deputies who shared the government view about the need for comprehensive cooperation on a quick initiative to tackle the economic and financial crisis and to solve it quickly. As for criticism that the government statement did not outline programs and plans, we say it supplied the broad lines and briefly mentioned the solutions. Based on this statement, the government will compile a detailed and coordinated economic and financial plan designed to achieve financial balance, to provide incentives for national production, and to tackle existing social problems. In making its statement, the government benefited enormously from the economic experts' report and from the published views of qualified people. The statement mentioned this. We know that all this must be spelled out in a detailed plan; we prefer not to make too many promises now but to let deeds speak for themselves. This way the government can be seen to be going about its work credibly and seriously. Above all, it can win the honorable Chamber's confidence, that of citizens at home and abroad, and of the brothers and friends who are called upon to help reconstruction.

This is our statement. We depend on your valuable confidence and support to implement its contents.

Source Says Syria Sees Hizballah as 'Legitimate'

NC2905095192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] AFP cites a well-informed source in Damascus as saying that Syria does not regard Hizballah—which the United States and Israel demand should be disarmed—as a militia, adding that it cannot be classified in the same way as other armed militias. The source said the resistance is not a militia but is legitimate, according to the al-Ta'if Agreement, which differentiates between resistance and militia and provides for liberating the territory occupied by Israel by any means.

The source added that pressure—even Washington-originated—to disarm Hizballah results from reading the al-Ta'if Agreement incorrectly.

German Hostages Issue Said To Be 'Blocked'

NC3105193792 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, May 31 (AFP) - Efforts to secure the release of two German hostages in Lebanon have been blocked, dimming recent hopes for an end to their three-year ordeal, Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib said Sunday.

"The question of the German hostages was on the point of being resolved over the last three months, but the process has stumbled and been put in doubt," he told reporters at his home in the eastern al-Biqa' Valley.

General Khatib did not elaborate but said he still hoped the last Western hostages in Lebanon would go free in June.

Last Wednesday, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz had voiced new optimism for Heinrich Struebig, 51, and Thomas Kemptner, 30, who were kidnapped May 16, 1989 by a group linked to the family of two brothers jailed in Germany.

"I think a resolution of the German hostages affair will not be long in coming," he had told reporters. "There are no more political obstacles, just technical problems to resolve."

Reportage on Visits by PLO Delegation, 'Arafat

Delegation Meets With al-Shar'

JN2905124092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GNT 29 May 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with this morning Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Mahmud al-Khalidi, the PLO representative in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks centered on the international situation, developments in the region, the results of the peace process, and the continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Both sides agreed that the brutal Israeli aggressions against Lebanon are aimed at achieving electoral gains for Israel's rulers, ending the peace process, and harming security and stability in the region. They also agreed that Israel's determination to continue the occupation of Arab territories, deliberate killing of innocent civilians, and blowing up civilian homes with warplanes under official decisions by the Israeli Government represent the ultimate terrorism.

Both sides also regretted that no distinction is being made between the aggressor and victim in statements calling for self-restraint by the concerned parties—statements that encourage Israel to continue aggression rather than exercise restraint. During the meeting, they also agreed to raise these matters on the Arab and international levels and during the quadripartite meeting scheduled to be held in Amman next week by Arab sides participating in the peace process.

'Arafat Arrives in Damascus 30 May

JN3005115792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Damascus—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus at noon today for a visit.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed him at Damascus international airport.

Al-Asad Meets With Delegation

JN3005203592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad met with a PLO delegation led by Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at 1800 today. The delegation includes Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Hani al-Hasan, and Shafiq al-Hut.

The meeting was also attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur. The discussion focused on regional developments, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and the peace process, underscoring the importance of Arab cooperation in promoting a just and comprehensive peace.

'Arafat Departs 31 May

JN3105112692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation left Damascus at noon today following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

'Arafat was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the PLO representative in Damascus.

Reportage on Visit by UAE Deputy Prime Minister

Al-Zu'bi Meets With Al Nuhayyan

JN2705133992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this afternoon met with His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the UAE ambassador in Damascus. His Highness Shaykh Sultan conveyed the greetings and wishes of His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum—UAE vice president and prime minister—to al-Zu'bi. Al-Zu'bi asked him to convey his greetings and good wishes to His Highness Shaykh Maktum.

During the meeting, they discussed common objectives of the strong cooperation between Syria and the UAE, as well as means and formulas to expand the horizons of this brotherly cooperation in all fields.

The prime minister was also briefed about the outcome of the current talks between both sides. He expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of these talks. He stressed the importance of the visit made by His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and his delegation to Syria in strengthening bilateral relations and developing cooperation through fruitful and constructive steps in all fields, in a manner that would serve their mutual interests and strengthen brotherly ties. They also discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, met with this morning His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, as well as the members of the official delegation accompanying Shaykh Sultan. They discussed bilateral relations and cooperation.

After that, a session of official talks between both sides was held. It was cochaired by Dr. Salim Yasin and His Highness Shaykh Sultan. [passage omitted]

In this session, they reviewed the march of cooperation and assessed the steps achieved in the past. Their discussion focused on developing economic relations; cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, and electricity; trade exchange; and establishing joint projects. They also agreed to hold submeetings between the guest minister and his Syrian counterpart and between technicians, during which aspects of cooperation in all sectors will be reviewed to reach standards and agreements to strengthen the brotherhood and march of cooperation between both fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Receives Al Nuhayyan

JN2705181392 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpts] At 1800 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. [passage omitted]

The officials discussed the latest developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Gulf, Arab relations, and the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Al-Asad, Al Nuhayyan Hold Meeting

JN2805131592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan—United Arab Emirates [UAE] deputy prime minister—and his accompanying delegation at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and UAE Ambassador in Damascus Khalifah Shahin al-Mari.

Shaykh Sultan conveyed to the president greetings from the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The president thanked the UAE official and asked him to convey his own greetings and good wishes to Shaykh Zayid and the UAE people.

Talks dealt with the current situation in the region, the Arab situation, and bilateral relations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Jun

JN0106084792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 1 Jun (SANA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Upon arrival at Damascus International Airport, Velayati was met by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

Editorial: World Should React to Israel's Acts

JN2705102492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Damascus, 27 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN reaffirms that the ongoing savage Israeli raids in southern Lebanon are aimed at escalating and exploding the regional situation in order to torpedo the peace process.

In an editorial published today, the paper says: An objective recourse to reason and common sense confirms that the Israeli enemy, which is sending its planes to raid and fire rockets at Lebanese villages and cities, is the only terrorist party, and that terrorism is one of its innate traits.

The paper refers to the statement made by the enemy foreign minister in which he asked Syria to halt Lebanese national resistance operations against the Israeli occupation, saying: Levi, who views acts of national resistance as terrorist acts, himself contradicted this flagrant claim when he noted that Syria is a party to the peace process.

The paper adds: Given Levi's acknowledgement that Syria is a party to the peace process, one wonders how Israeli politicians judge matters. The paper wonders how the people who are resisting occupation can be called terrorist, while the party that is killing the sons of this people, harvesting their children, and destroying their houses is not.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Syria, while eager to render peace efforts a success, is also well aware that it is impossible to maintain peace while the occupation is maintained. This requires the world community, the paper adds, to take action to curb this dangerously aggressive Israeli belligerence.

Daily Criticizes World 'Silence' Over Lebanon

JN2905110792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Damascus, 29 May (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH criticized the world's silence, the United Nations, and the Security Council over Israel's crimes and continuous attacks against Arab citizens in the occupied territories and Southern Lebanon.

In a commentary entitled "We Adhere to Peace, But," the paper says: We have the right to ask with pain and resentment where has the world community gone at a time when the occupied Gaza Strip and Southern Lebanon are going through a test of strength and subjected to the iron fist policy and when the defenseless people there are constantly subjected to murder, programmed killings, oppression, tyranny, and collective punishment at the hands of the Zionist enemy troops and the herds of savage Zionist settlers? Why is this suspect silence over the blockade, the military siege, the isolation, the starvation, and the attempts to subjugate a people who proudly and persistently defy all attempts aimed at making them submit to the usurper? How long will this silence and failure to deter Israel and check its aggression, practices, and threat to world peace and security, last?

The paper adds: It is painful and regrettable to see today those who falsely claim to be protectors of democracy and human rights and the advocators of the new world order deliberately and premeditatedly turning a deaf ear and blind eye to Israel's racist crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and against the people in south Lebanon. The UN troops, as well as the United Nations and its Security Council, are standing helplessly watching—like a false witness—the flagrant barbaric violations and aggressions, and the world and its organization are doing nothing, not even uttering a decisive word or taking a responsible position to deter Israel and prevent it from continuing its crimes. Meanwhile, we see in some other place a search for a simple and ordinary individual act to punish a certain Arab country and the nation as a whole. How can one understand this? What credibility do these people want us to believe in when they claim to be concerned for peace and, at the same time, seek to deprive us of our resistance, our legitimate weapons that we use to defend ourselves, and the stones of our children under the slogan of peace and allow Israel to shed our blood?

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: While we adhere to the just peace, we realize—which we have learned from the heritage of this nation and other peoples in the world and from direct contact with, and experience of the long struggle with the Israeli enemy—that the paths of struggle are the only ones that would definitely lead to victory and ensure liberating the land and the return of rights. Any right that is not protected by force is a weak and lifeless right, even if it was acknowledged by hundreds of international resolutions.

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi 'Safe' After Rocket Attack on Plane

LD2905164192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reports that at about 1700 today a number of professional and subversive criminals who have no confidence in any of their commitments or agreements fired at the plane carrying esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his entourage as it was about to land at Kabul airport after a visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The third shell fired at the plane damaged the front of the plane.

While esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and his entourage were enjoying the blessing and assistance of Almighty God, the pilots used their courage and expertise to land the plane safely. One pilot received minor injuries; the rest of the passengers, including esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, are all safe and sound.

The office of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan warns the perpetrators of such anti-Islamic and irresponsible actions that it will make a decision in this respect.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1430 GMT on 29 May reports: "A plane carrying Sebghatollah Mojaddedi from Peshawar to Kabul was hit by a rocket this afternoon 20 meters above Kabul airport. The front end of the plane was completely destroyed. Our correspondent reports that the copilot was wounded and that three crew members were in shock due to the rush of flames inside the plane. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and delegation escaped injury. The plane landed safely. The same correspondent reports that, although the rocket used has not been identified, one of the delegates in the plane says the rocket was fired south of Kabul."]

Mojaddedi Speaks on Attack

BK3105155692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 31 May 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, May 31 (AFP)—Afghan caretaker President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi Sunday squarely blamed members of the ousted communist regime and renegade mojahedin for trying to shoot down his plane.

Addressing his first news conference amid tight security since gunners shot and damaged his plane over Kabul Friday, Mojaddedi said angrily it appeared to have been a plot to assassinate him.

"I am not 100 percent sure, but there is a great possibility that (Golboddin) Hekmatyar and the Khalqi forces shot my plane," the 70-year-old president said.

The reference was to holdout leader of the Hezb-e Eslami Party and the Khalq faction of the ousted Watan (Homeland) Party that sided with Hekmatyar after the April 28 transfer of power in Kabul.

Rockets or anti-aircraft fire damaged the nose cone of Mojaddedi's Tupolev civilian aircraft when he was returning from a trip to Pakistan, and the president said investigations had proved that the shelling came from an area under Hezb control.

"There are no Russians or communists left, so our enemies are Afghans.... I am disappointed, " Mojadeddi said, adding the attack occurred at a time when Hekmatyar had signed an accord with the interim government's Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to end the Kabul fighting.

The Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord provides for the withdrawal of militia and northern Afghan mojahedin fighters from Kabul, but Mojaddedi said Friday's incident made it clear that such a pullout was impractical.

"If these troops withdraw, the security (of Kabul) will be totally disturbed.... Such a pullout is not possible unless other forces arrive," the president said in his 90-minute press conference.

"We are not in favor of bloodshed, but we need the forces here," he said, adding that fresh forces belongining to factions other than Mas'ud's Shura-e Nazaar had already arrived in Kabul to beef up defences against Hekmatyar's men in the city's south.

"The problem is that Hekmatyar and the Khalq forces are not afraid to kill thousands of innocent people. On our side we don't want the death of a single innocent person...or else a lot could be done," he said.

Hekmatyar insists on the pullout of Mas'ud's fighters and Uzbek militia from Kabul as a precondition to joining Mojaddedi's interim council, scheduled to surrender control of the administration June 28.

"Sebghatollah Mojaddedi is not afraid. I will courageously continue my task for the nation," he said defiantly, adding that Kabul faced no more danger from the Hezb fighters.

Saturday Mojaddedi was quoted as saying that the Mas'ud-Hekmatyar accord's cease-fire clause was welcome, but that the provision for the troop pullout was not binding on the central government.

Speaking at a scheduled ceremony, Mojaddedi said he had wanted to transfer the interim administration two weeks after coming to Kabul, but that people had forced him to remain in the presidency.

"Thousands of people, commanders, the clergy and Afghan scholars abroad were insisting that if I do not continue then there is a fear of danger to Afghanistan.

"Now I am confused as one has to yield to the peoples' will...but I have not reached my final decision," Mojaddedi said.

The Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord also stipulates that Mojaddedi step down on June 28 and elections be held within six months to prevent a possible power vacuum, a demand voiced by several other mojahedin groups.

On June 28 he is scheduled to be replaced by Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the present Supreme Leadership Council.

Hekmatyar Denies Involvement

BK3105171692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 31 (AFP)—Hardline mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar Saturday rejected as baseless Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's allegations he had planned the interim Afghan president's assassination.

Mojaddedi had a narrow escape Friday when a rocket slammed into the runway as his plane was landing at the Kabul airport. Shrapnel from the exploding rocket pierced through the Tupolev aircraft's nose smashing its right side.

The co-pilot was injured but managed to land safely.

"If we had such plan we would have used at least 20 missiles and left no chance for survival, but we would not do that," said Hezb spokesman 'Abdol Qadir Karyab.

In reaction to the 70-year-old interim president's assertion that the Afghan people wanted him to stay beyond his stipulated two-month tenure, which expires June 28, Karyab said the only people who supported Mojaddedi were "communists who are using him and the (Uzbek) militia against the mojahedin."

Karyab said since Mojaddedi had no power of his own, he could not trust others.

Mojaddedi was relying on militia commander 'Abdol Rashid Dostam and elements of the former communist regime who would try to keep him as president, the spokesman said.

A spokesman from Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jamiat-e Eslami faction also criticised Mojaddedi's statement that he was confused over whether he should stay or go.

"Mojaddedi signed an accord with other mojahedin leaders in Peshawar," on April 24, Yunes Qanooni said, referring to an agreement that envisages a transfer of power to Jamiat chief Borhanoddin Rabbani after the completion of the interim president's tenure.

Jamiat would urge those who want Mojaddedi to continue in power "to wait for elections," he said.

Uzbek, Hezb Fighters Clash in Kabul District

BK3005134892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 30 (AFP)—Fresh fighting between Uzbek militia and holdout mojahedin flared Saturday in a southeastern district of Kabul, shattering fragile six-day peace forged by two resistance leaders, officials said.

Militia and fighters of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, clashed with rockets and light cannons in a fight to take over the suburb of Kart-e Nao, they said.

"We were stopping Hekmatyar's men from entering the city," said militia commander Brigadier Mohammad Nawab, although he could give no casualty figures for either side.

Explosions rocked the area as the rival sides fought for a foothold in Kart-e Nao, located on the highway to the satellite town of Bagrami.

Military planes buzzed overhead in the clear sky, but officials did not say whether the Air Force, held by the interim Afghan government, was involved in the skirmishes.

"We are holding our positions," said Nawab, a close aid of Uzbek militia general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam and a bitter foe of Hekmatyar. Nawab is currently allied to interim government defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Nawab controls some 15,000 Uzbek fighters and says he has been charged by Dostam with the security of the areas under his control, including the airport.

Saturday's fighting rent a fragile peace that held from Monday when Mas'ud and Hekmatyar signed a peace accord calling for the withdrawal of outside forces from Kabul and an election within six months.

The gun battle also came a day after unknown attackers shot and damaged a plane carrying interim President Sebgatollah Mojaddedi over Kabul while it was returning from the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Mojaddedi's son, Zabihullah, has blamed Hezb-e troops for the attack, in which anti-aircraft guns were reportedly used, but said he did not have concrete evidence implicating the holdout group.

Hezb-e fighters meanwhile attacked a convoy of Mas'ud's men near the northern city of Charikar but released them after taking their weapons, Nawab reported, but did not specify the day on which the incident occurred.

Thousands of Mas'ud's Jam'yat-e Eslami fighters poured into the city after the April 28 collapse of the communist regime, and their presence in the city was contended by Hekmatyar until Monday's accord asked for their pullout.

The presence of Dostam's reckless Uzbek fighters remains one of the main issues clouding the ongoing process to try to restore law and order to Kabul.

Hekmatyar: Hezb Troops 'Not Involved' in Clash

BK3105160892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, chief of the Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, has said that his party's troops were not involved in the clashes with the militia that took place at Kart-e Nao in Kabul last night. In an interview, he said that these clashes took place between the militia and other groups of mojahedin. We have signed a cease-fire agreement that is still in force, and we will continue to observe it so long as the other side respects it. The Afghan leader said that we are trying to resolve the problems through negotiations. He called upon all mojahedin groups to cooperate in the formation of a strong central government in order to establish peace and order in the country. He said that this type of government will end the sense of insecurity and Afghanistan will then be safe from the clutches of the communists.

Hekmatyar Aide Says Mojaddedi Breaching Mandate

BK3105141992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Islamabad, May 30 (AFP)—The Afghan Hezb-e-Eslami party Sunday accused Sebghatollah Mojaddedi of breaching his mandate as head of the mojahedin interim government in Kabul.

Mojaddedi had "failed" to do anything during his one month in office to promote mojahedin unity, a Hezb leader, Ghairat Baheer, told a press conference here.

Baheer, a close aide to holdout Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, said Mojaddedi had "added to misgivings about himself by violating the letter and spirit" of the April 24 mojahedin accord under which he assumed power last month.

He cited the appointment of General Asef Dilawar as Army chief and promotion of Uzbek militia commander Abdol Rashid Dostam to the rank of full general.

Mojaddedi had no authority to elevate "communists and criminal militia leaders," the Hezb official said, adding the interim president had insulted the Afghan nation by praising Dostam.

Baheer, who arrived in Pakistan from Kabul Saturday for a three-day stay, said the only viable way to resolve the "festering" Afghan problem was to hold elections.

He said he saw no obstacles to power passing to president-designate and Jamiat chief, Burhanuddin Rabbani, at the end of Mojaddedi's two month tenure.

"Mojaddedi will not be able to extend his term," he said.

About the future of Dostam, Baheer said he had to be "disarmed and decommissioned."

"There was no question of giving him or any member of the ousted regime a share in power," he added.

Asked if Mas'ud would be distancing himself from militia allies after the agreement with Hekmatyar, the Hezb official said the Jamiat commander had "no other choice."

Otherwise, he said, Mas'ud would find himself "isolated from the Afghan nation."

The Hezb-sponsored Afghan News Agency (ANA), meanwhile, said the first meeting of Afghan mojahedin leadership council was held under Rabbani's chairmanship in the Kabul suburbs Sunday. Mojaddedi did not attend, the agency said.

ANA, received here, also carried a statement by Hekmatyar denying reports of Hezb's involvement in clashes Saturday with militia in Kabul.

Statement 'Runs Counter' to Accord

BK3105085892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 31 (AFP)—Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi has rejected proposals for the withdrawal of troops from Kabul without his caretaker government's authority, officials said Sunday.

The 70-year-old president's statement Saturday runs counter to a key accord signed last Monday by holdout mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar and the caretaker government's defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Withdrawal of security forces, including the militia, cannot be done without the approval of the government, and agreement between two parties was not binding on the government, officials quoted Mojaddedi as saying.

Mas'ud was in a close huddle Sunday with Hezb-e Eslami splinter faction chief Yunes Khales at his residence to discuss the latest developments. Details of their talks were not known.

Mojaddedi specifically mentioned his rejection of proposals to withdraw the tough Uzbek fighters of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam from Kabul, saying they were defending the city from attacks.

The Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord called for the withdrawal of all forces from Kabul to end the fight for the capital, and elections within six months to fill a possible political vacuum.

Mojaddedi said he supported the provision of a cease-fire in the Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord, but did not find a "legal basis" for the other points bilaterally agreed by the two Afghan leaders.

Observers said Mojaddedi's comments were a fresh setback to the process of restoring order in Kabul, with the president going against his own defence minister, a legendary mojahedin warrior.

Hekmatyar insists on the withdrawal of the 15,000-member Uzbek force from Kabul as a precondition to his participation in the interim government, whose term expires June 28.

Dostam's Uzbek fighters helped Mas'ud's forces from the country's north to topple the former Soviet-installed government of President Najibollah, and push out Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami renegade rebels from this city of 1.5 million.

A spokesman for the presidential palace said Mojaddedi would hold a news conference later Sunday.

President on Pakistani Reconstruction Assurance

BK3005143992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi has said Pakistan has assured every possible assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi was talking to Pakistani correspondents in Kabul today. He described his talks with the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, as highly fruitful.

In reply to a question, the Afghan president said under a joint committee set up by the two countries for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, a Pakistani delegation would soon visit Kabul. A similar delegation of Afghanistan will also visit Pakistan shortly.

Mojaddedi Chairs Jehadi Council Session

LD3005232192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The Jehadi Council met today at Golkhana Palace under the chairmanship of Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Jehadi Council Secretary Mawlawi Abdollah Fazl Bari briefed BAKHTAR on today's Council decisions:

Provincial councils will be set up very soon, and the list of provincial leaders will be sent to the Jehadi Council for appointments.

Budgets allocated to provincial councils that have approached the center and have been made official will be sent.

The establishment of the council of Hel and Aqd [electoral council] has been approved.

The Council appointed a board to resolve the problem of Hezb-e Wahdat; to talk to Ettehad-e Eslami and Jamiat-e Eslami about the absence of Jehadi Council members associated with them; and to plan, organize, and present to the Jehadi Council those jehadi forces whose (?combination) has been approved.

The Council also decided that an authoritative commission made up of jehadi formations within the government will be assigned to investigate and organize the affairs of the Information and Culture Ministry and radio and television.

The police start work very soon.

It was decided that the 29 May incident in which the plane carrying Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and his entourage was attacked will be investigated. The Defense Ministry and the Security Commission are duty-bound to investigate the incident and present the results to the Jehadi Council.

On agreements reached by two or several formations, it was decided that if the agreements involve the formations, then it is their own business; however, if they are at state level, they are not binding on government organs without the Jehadi Council's approval.

Mojaddedi Meets Various Envoys

LD3005204992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Sayed Mostafa al-Mouzni, Tunisian presidential envoy and Tunisian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, this afternoon at the Golkhana Palace of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. They discussed subjects of mutual interest. The Tunisian presidential envoy handed the esteemed president of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan a letter from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on consolidating and strengthening relations between the two countries.

Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received (Joma Naji Mohammad Esmael), ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Palestinian state, this afternoon at Golkhana Palace. They discussed subjects of mutual interests.

[Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto at 1430 GMT on 30 May adds: "Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met (Feda Yunis), charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; (Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian), charge d' affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (Vijay K. Nambiar), ambassador of the Republic of India, at Kabul's Golkhana Palace. Hamed Karzai also attended these meetings. The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ambassador of the Republic of India denounced the evil attempt on the life of Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and his entourage and wished esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi a long life, good health, and safety. Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi spoke about his visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and about broadening friendly relations and expanding cooperation with these countries."]

IUP Wants 'Key Post' in Interim Government

LD2905163192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The secretary general of the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party, IUP] has announced that a decision on the possible date and means of holding elections, and of the withdrawal of northern forces from Kabul, may only be taken by all the mojahedin groups; two groups cannot take such a decision independently. According to our reporter, IUP Secretary General Mr. Mazari added: Although holding the elections is necessary, and we too believe that they should be held, nevertheless, the question of establishing security and the return of refugees before the elections is more important.

Stressing the importance of the participation of all sectors of the people, including women, in the forthcoming Afghan elections, he said: The presence of UN representatives in the Afghan elections would guarantee the validity of the forthcoming elections.

The secretary general of the IUP referred to the agreements reached between the IUP and leaders of the Jehadi Council and said: So far, agreement has been reached over the presence of eight representatives of the IUP on the 51-member Jehadi Council and of four ministers from the party in the government, but the leaders of the IUP want to have a key post in the interim government.

Rabbani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD3105024192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[Sermon by Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, preceding Juma prayers at Al-Fath Mosque in Kabul on 29 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Dear perfomers of prayers, God's peace and blessing be upon you, we all notice the fact that after the success of our Islamic revolution, the enemies of Islam disseminate incorrect propaganda and rumors, by different means and method, so our oppressed and afflicted people will live in fear and worry. They want our people to react to this blessing as if they do not know their fate yet. Which way are they heading? How will their social problems will be resolve?

In our speech today we should discuss a few issues: Where does the work of our Islamic revolution start? What plans do we have to implement the high Islamic goal, our dear martyrs' aim? What steps should we take in this respect? What kind of programs shall be introduced for fundamental reforms in our deprived and afflicted society, for the return to the habits of our dear prophet?

As we go through the beginning of the Islamic state, the start of the Islamic call, we see the conditions and circumstances that confronted our prophet, peace be upon him, and which were the first steps for the salvation of mankind and the reform of the society.

Our dear prophet, peace be upon him, received his mission in an environment very similar to our own time and to our revolution, in circumstances in which oppressors determined the fate of the mankind. At that time, there was an oppressive power in the East, the ancient Iranian empire, the empire of Kasra, and another oppressive power was dominant in the West [word indistinct] those two colonial powers brought pressure to bear on oppressed nations. The circumstances dominant in Mecca and on the Arab Peninsula were such that Arab Peninsula was suffering from, taking a social point of view, an ideological crisis, an economic crisis and a political crisis. They did not know which way to turn. Social corruption had overwhelmed everything.

In such circumstance, the Islamic call began its work. The reform of the individuals and the guidance of mankind was the first revolutionary step and program of Islam. Because, from the point of view of Islamic revolution and Islamic culture, so long as individuals are not changed, so long as mankind's thinking and moral characteristics are not changed, so long as a human being has not recognized his humane dignity, so long as an individual's blood, property, honor are not protected, so long as the vision of individuals on [word indistinct] about himself, his society, the universe, the start of being and its ends, about various phenomena which human beings face in life, so long as human thinking is uncorrected, then human beings and human society cannot successfully introduce any change and any revolution for the reform of society.

There is a difference between the governments of God and Islamic revolution and non-Islamic government and Pharaoh-like powers. Islamic government is based on individual's dignity whereas the first act of non-Islamic government is the condemnation of human being, [words indistinct] looting human being's property, making the human blood worthless, violating the honor and dignity of human beings. In ungodly governments and un-Islamic ideologies and philosophies, the dignity and honor of individuals are not safe [words indistinct] their blood is shed with impunity whereas in Islamic teaching and Islamic revolution this is not the case. [passage omitted]

We can see in all the atheist regimes, we can see in our own country before the establishment of our Islamic state, before the victory of the Islamic revolution, in the coup d'etat and in the atheist regimes how that was the situation of our people in Afghanistan. The dignity of no one, no human being was safe. Property or wealth was not safe. The blood of no human being was protected. The atheist communists looted any home they wanted, imprisoning anyone they wished, killing anyone they wanted and shooting anyone they wanted. The places of torture were everywhere. Children, old people, women, young people—all were punished. If yesterday the Eqyptian Pharaoh was killing the children of Israel, here, in our dear Afghanistan, you saw your young people, your children, killed by the mercenaries of Pharaoh. We also saw that a number of our sisters were not considered a serious threat to the regime but were instead kept alive, killing our young men. But, even for those sisters who were saved, their honor, their dignity, their prestige was not safeguarded.

No one felt secure. Several savage murderers, with extreme heartlessness, were crushing our nation. They sentenced it to death, without recourse to law, without question, without court proceedings. There were courts, but only in name, forced courts. The orders of the courts were written in advance. Even before the courts issued their orders, people who were killed, buried alive. This was the Pharaonic regimes and the non-Islamic regimes.

However, in an Islamic regime the first step is to protect the dignity of the individual. God has given dignity to mankind. If a drop of Muslim blood is shed unjustly, God's universe shakes. [passage omitted]

However, those heartless murderers and assassins who have killed thousands of our human beings, 1.5 million human beings, more than that—men, women, young people and children, they are criminals; words cannot properly explain their crimes. In Islam, in our Islamic regime, all the people, no one, has the right to even slap the face of a Hindu from Shor Bazar [Kabul neighborhood]. One has no right to steal even a penny from a Hindu from Shor Bazar or to take it by force. If there are any Jews, or there are any Christians or other nonbelievers, no Muslim at whatever level has the right to violate their property or make the slightest violation of the property of a non-Muslim, the dignity of a non-Muslim, the honor of a non-Muslim, not to mention those Muslims to whom God has given dignity, in addition to human dignity, God has given them Islamic and Muslim dignity. No one has the right under any condition to violate the dignity of a Muslim, the honor of a Muslim, the property of a Muslim. [passage omitted]

We were living in a period of the government of the ignorant. The government which [words indistinct] and several who sold out. They did not take any mercy on their people. They did not have any kindness for the children. They did not show any pity to their country. They destroyed our country competely. They were laughingstocks, deviants. They did not have any wisdom. If they were clever, they would never have made the country face this situation. They would have not resorted to savage killing.

The holy Koran and the Islamic invitation say that the first reform starts from man's religious thoughts. It improves the religious thought of human beings and makes human beings believe in God, believe in doomsday and believe in the fact that good and evil comes from God and that he should believe in the fact that any kind of good and evil deeds will be questioned. It is not the case that if everyone does whatever they want, no one will question them. If they commit robbery no one will question them. If they kill another human being no one will ask them. If he carries out any type of corruption no one will ask them. No, that type of behavior is the custom of an ignorant period.

Dear brothers, if you see the signs of the ignorant today during the Islamic revolution, you should know that anyone who is [word indistinct] in the period of the Islamic government, these people, these individuals are part of those ignorant elements. If you see individuals who are stealing people's homes, you should not consider them as a part of the Islamic government. If you see individuals who are killing poor human beings, intimidating them, if you see that they resort to violations of people's honor, then they are ignorant people and part of the ignorant society. They do not belong to us, to our Islamic society, to our Islamic state and to our Islamic brotherhood. You should be aware that none of us, God forbid, should violate anyone's dignity. No one has the right to say that yesterday I was a mojahed and today I can do whatever I want to do, kill who I want to kill, hit, or imprison who I want. [passage omitted]

We can see in an Islamic government and our Islamic state the limit of respect for the dignity of human beings. For instances, even if one slaps another's face, and that person goes and complains to the Islamic government, the Islamic government must punish that person.

We are talking about our brothers. About our brothers who recently entered Kabul as conquerors and liberators. [passage indistinct] You should not think like this. You have saved these people from infidels. You have saved them from atrocities. You have saved them from corruption. [passage indistinct] They submitted to Pharaoh. If they were killing them, if they were burying them alive, if they were putting them in prison and killing 1.5 million people, then it does not matter if I come and strike a blow with my fist or with my foot. If I take their money, it does not matter. It will not be the end of world.

No, my mojahed brother. You are the guardian of the sanctuary of Islam. You are the guardians of the honor of Muslims. My mojahed brother, there is a difference between you and the yesterday's criminals and murderers. You are servants of God. God has sent verses about you in the Koran. [passage omitted] God has soldiers on Earth and in the sky.

You are the soldier of God. He was the enemy of God. You are Moses and he was Pharaoh. You should know that you have come to save people. You have no rights to take anything from any homes, or from any people without permission. You are not allowed to strike a blow with your fist on some one. You can not imprison anyone. [passage indistinct]

They were oppressed yesterday. They were convicted yesterday. They were afraid yesterday that the cruel and criminal elements were looting their homes, plundering their property, dragging them in the middle of the night to prison. They were unable to defend themselves. The regime's police were cruel. The regime's judges were cruel. The regime's head of state was cruel, a Godless Pharaoh. Today, the guardians of Islam, the judges, those who are responsible for ensuring justice, those who are political authorities—all consider themselves responsible before God and before the servants of God. The period of causing inconvenience, corruption and misfortune which existed in the past should not be repeated in our Islamic state.

If you see, if you come across people who come with their tanks and with their [word indistinct] and frighten the people, they should be ashamed of themselves. Should this oppressed and miserable nation always be [words indistinct]? Yesterday the oppressor and the infidel elements frightened them. They had no peaceful sleep. Their children and their women could not go to school or anywhere else in security and safety. They were afraid of being abducted by a communist or being followed by the police. But now that an Islamic government has been established, this should not happen. The dignity of people is safe.

It was for human dignity that the Islamic state has not bothered even the communist elements. We pardoned them, although most of them did not deserve pardon. If we call anyone to account, we do it through courts of law. We do not call old men out of their homes and tell them that their sons were officers who arrested my brother or another relative. No one has the right to set up his own court or to be a judge unto himself or to make himself, say, the head of state.

The law is not in the hands of every individual so everyone can enforce the law according to their own wishes.

Brothers, in the present circumstances, know that human dignity [passage indistinct] dear brothers, this was your slogan yesterday and today it should also be your slogan [passage indistinct] anywhere you see someone, even if he is your comrade in arms, who indulges in corruption, assaults women, assaults property and defames the Islamic state, hit him on his head. Do not shoot him, but definitely hit him with the butt of your gun. Do not allow corrupted people to defame you and your jehad. You fought for a decade in trenches in the name of God, fought with bare feet, fought with hunger, fought under shells and machineguns, in blood and fire, in order to raise Islam high, to hoist the flag of "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his Messenger." Today, you have hoisted this flag with the blessing of God. Do not allow you or your revolutionary grandeur to be defamed by corrupted elements.

Dear brother, today God has given everything to you. Dear brothers, mojahed brothers, we all know that there are some corrupted people who want to defame you. There are people who sabotage the revolution. We warn all brothers and the faithful people of Kabul that there are many robbers and corrupted and atheist elements, elements who were the enemies of Islam and Muslims until yesterday. They may have had weapons and dressed themselves as mojahedin. Now [words indistinct] we see that some elements have started growing beards. I pray that God may [words indistinct] it is a good act. It is the deed of the prophet. We follow the deeds of the prophet, peace be upon him. They might want to defame the mojahedin and the Islamic revolution by posing as a mojahed.

We reassure our business brothers and shopkeepers that so far as possible efforts are being made to ensure their security. No one should panic. We talked to the businessmen of Saray Shahzada [Kabul money market] and sent some people to ensure the security of the market. Praise be to God that security has been ensured there. Now we hear some complaints that some corrupted and saboteur elements, who committed armed lootings of shops, now commit other acts now that the security of shops is being gradually ensured. They go to the homes of some of our trader brothers and threaten them. In order to extract money from them or loot their homes, they tell them they will take them to a garrison. Even the home of a very patriotic Hindu was attacked. I am confident that most of those acts are antirevolutionary acts. There are some people who sabotage the revolution. Our sincere and faithful mojahedin, after fighting for years in the trench of Islam, will never allow themselves to defame Islam at this stage of victory and the grandeur of Islam. The faith, valour, jehadi background of those people who instead of joining Najib stood in the trenches of jehad to the last breath—some of them become martyrs and some lost their friends—today they have entered Kabul victoriously. They will not allow themselves to embark on looting and corruption. There might be some saboteurs, but most of them are those who sabotage the revolution. Therefore we shall all hold one another's hand. Cooperate with our mojahed brothers and tell them when we come across corrupted elements, so they can thwart those corrupted people, so that your dignity, your honor and your property are safe. This is the first duty of the Islamic state for social reforms.

We will, God willing, talk about other fundamentals of the Islamic revolution which should be observed for social change and reform in forthcoming sermons. But I would like to say one thing, brothers: This stage is the stage of transition, the stage of ideological, political, social and economic transition. You suffered economic hardship and political crisis, a crisis of ignorant ideas in the stage before the success of the Islamic revolution. There was social corruption everywhere. But, today we want to turn our society into a calm and secure society, into a clean society, into an economically prosperous and politically stable society. I know that at this stage of the revolution you face problems. I hope that these problems shall be resolved very soon.

Citizens Asked To Refrain From Appointing Imams

LD3005202292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[Announcement by the Afghan Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment—read by announcer]

[Text] The Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment, as a credible religious organ at the state level, sincerely calls on all Muslim and religious people of the city of Kabul and mojahed brethren as a whole not to inconvenience the esteemed preachers and imams of mosques and preachers of takyas [mosques used by followers of Shi'a sect] and to avoid taking any action on their own and without the permission of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment regarding the appointment or transfer of preachers and imams, thus preventing any chaos in the organization of the religious affairs of the mosques and takyas. Otherwise, the responsibility rests on those who interfere in the religious affairs of the local people with no authority.

India

Presidential Election Scheduled 13 July

BK2905162192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The election of the country's next president is to be held on the 13th of July. Announcing the program in New Delhi today, the Election Commission said the notification will be issued on the 10th of next month. The last date for nominations will be the 24th of June. Scrutiny will take place the following day and the last date for withdrawal will be the 27th. The secretary general of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal, has been appointed returning officer for the election of the ninth president.

Pakistan's Khan Cited on Diplomatic Incident

BK3005162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The Pakistani leader, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has described as very unfortunate the incident involving the abduction and torture of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad. Mr. Wali Khan, who is currently on a visit to India to participate in the birth centenary celebrations of Frontier Gandhi, said in New Delhi that neighboring countries should behave like civilized neighbors. Asked about India's decision to postpone the foreign secretary-level talks, he said it was a logical consequence.

Joint Naval Exercises With U.S. Conclude 29 May

CPI, Trade Unionists Protest Manuevers

BK2905161992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The 24-hour joint Indo-U.S. naval exercises concluded off Goa this afternoon. The exercises, which involved four ships—two each from both sides—carried out general drills, maneuvers, replenishment at sea, communications, search, and rescue. A spokesman of the Defense Ministry said in New Delhi the exercises were conducted in a professional and seamanlike manner.

The joint naval exercises have evoked criticism and protest demonstrations. In Calcutta, the left front committee of West Bengal has criticized the exercises at its meeting today. It expressed the fear that it will expose India's defense capabilities to the United States.

In New Delhi, youth volunteers of the CPI [Communist Party of India] staged a protest demonstration before the American Center and presented a memorandum addressed to the U.S. ambassador. In Kerala, hundreds of CITU [Center of Indian Trade Unions] workers took out a protest march at the Cochin Naval Base led by its state General Secretary Mr. Rabindranath.

Maneuvers 'Very Modest, Limited'

BK3005043092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 May 92

[Defense Analyst Captain C. Udhay Bhaskar]

[Text] The first ever India-U.S. joint naval exercise concluded last evening and by now the ships, two from each Navy, will be entering the harbor in Goa. There is no denying the fact that these exercises received considerable attention since they were first announced in Washington earlier this year. It has not confined to India alone, but comments came from some of the Indian ocean littorals. What is it about these maneuvers that they elicited so much comment?

At a professional military level, these exercises were very modest and limited in scope. This was the first time that India was interacting with the U.S. Navy and the exercises were confined to basic communication practices at sea, a few simple ship maneuvers and it is understood that no major ordnance was expended. In other words, there were no missiles streaking through the South Arabia Sea and so on. However, these exercises drew the notice they did for the larger symbolism they represent. It is true that these joint exercises with the United States follow in the wake of earlier maneuvers with the Australian, British, French and Indonesian Navies. But then, the U.S. Navy and Washington have a different kind of implications in the post Cold War era.

While, exercises with the most powerful navy in the world and the most technologically advanced navy will no doubt increase the Indian Navy's professional awareness, the implications are far-reaching. As of present, the U.S. Navy is a major extra-regional navy in the Indian Navy and the Indian Navy is the most capable among the littorals. A healthy cooperative spirit in the interaction between these two navies will be a desirable development in ensuring the stability of the region and the sea lanes from Persian Gulf to the distant seas of Asia-Pacific with other navies participating as suitable. This kind of naval diplomacy had gone into dormancy in the Indian context and this represents considerable latent potential as a means of confidence building among nations. The many areas of prickliness between the U.S. and India cannot be ignored, but the manner in which these exercises were conducted would suggest that as two mature plural democracies, the two nations can interact at many levels. One hopes that this beginning will be nurtured and kept alive.

Agni Missile Fails To Execute Final Maneuvers

BK3005031092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry says the second test flight of Agni was mainly aimed at testing the technology of advance maneuvers during the reentry phase to achieve high accurancy in guiding the payload to a designated target. It said the Agni missile launched yesterday is not a weapon system but a technology demonstrator.

Meanwhile, agencies quoting the Defense Research and Development Organization release said the intermediate range ballistic missile failed to carry out the final maneuvers. Though the last phase was normal, the later analyses showed that the missile's objective of final maneuvering could not be fulfilled due to premature ignition and separation of the second stage.

Daily on U.S. Ban on Space Agencies

BK3105095392 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 May 92 p 9

[By Man Mohan]

[Text] New Delhi, May 18—Is the United States trying to use dollar power in space technology too?

One wonders whether the blacklisting of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian space agency—Glavcosmos, with aim to pressurise Moscow to break its contract with New Delhi for the supply of cryogenic engines, would have come if India bought American technology.

The United States is certainly trying to kill two birds with one stone. While in the case of India, America's objective seems to be to prevent it from achieving heavy-load satellite launch capability and a consequent entry into the highly protective world market. In the case of Russia, Washington's action is like after the end of cold war—heralding a "trade war" now to keep it out of the international market of high technologies.

Under the garb of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the United States has put a two years' ban on ISRO and Glavcosmos and is instigating the other countries signatories to it to impose sanctions against India and Russia.

The truth, actually, lies somewhere else. America has taken the decision to ban the Indian and Russian space organisations after being "priced out" of the cryogenic rocket technology deal. India had the offer, besides American and Russian, from France also. The ISRO chairman, Dr U.R. Rao, after his recent visit to Russia, said that the US option was "prohibitively expensive". The price quoted by Russia was believed to be "one-fourth of the French bid of Rs [rupees] 800 crore."

So, the American decision seems to be based on commercial reasons rather than military, but it would like the world to believe it the other way. No country, specially India, can afford to pay "monopoly price" of any technology when the comparative technology is far cheaper in price, and competitive in technology.

Meanwhile, Glavcosmos officials have claimed that the Indian Government is in possession of a two-year-old letter from the US Administration clearing the participation of General Dynamics in the tender for the cryogenic engine contract which was eventually won by the Rusian space organisation.

The US Administration's letter, claim Glavcosmos officials, explicitly pointed out that the project did not violate the Missile Technology Control Regime. When contacted, the Indian officials confirmed this and said that operating within American laws, General Dynamics had offered to sell the cryogenic engines without transferring technology.

France too had agreed to sell the engines and transfer the know-how for making them.

According to the Indian officials, Glavcosmos had contracted to sell the engines and transfer technology at one-third of the price sought by America and France. The 250 million contract for the supply of two cryogenic engines was signed with the erstwhile Soviet Union in January 1991. And ISRO had reportedly paid about Rs 50 crore to the Russian space organisation soon after that. Recently tabled demand for grants of the Department of Space indicates this.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) was primarily set up by the Western countries, including America, to prevent the transfer of "production facilities" for the manufacture of missiles to nations suspected of developing their own nuclear weapons. The erstwhile

USSR never joined the Regime, describing it as "discriminatory", but Russia is now under pressure from the United States to sign it and the Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow have gone on record saying that the current "rocket deal episode" is unlikely to discourage it from doing so.

India wants cryogenic engines to be used in its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), whose configuration has been finalised. The GSLV will be capable of placing 2,500 kg class satellites into geosynchronous transfer orbit. It is configured by replacing the upper two stages of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which is designed for launching 1,000 kg class remote sensing payloads into a 900 kg polar sunsynchronous orbit, by a single cryogenic stage and the six solid propellant strap-on motors by four liquid propellant strap-ons derived from the PSLV second stage.

"It is pertinent to note that seven industrialised nations had got together and decided unilaterally to monopolise missile technology and establish the MTCR. They appropriated to themselves all virtues in use of the space technology," said an Indian space scientist adding that this was actually a hypocritical grab, seeking to exploit commercially space technology.

Around mid-April, two groups of experts from India and the United States had gone to Moscow to discuss cryogenic engine technology issue in separate meetings with Russian officials. The Glavcosmos played host to the Indian delegation and assured it that "we are committed to stand by the contract." Hosted by the Foreign Ministry, the American delegation kept on repeating that the rocket engines proposed sale to India was a violation of the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime.

Glavcosmos has been maintaining that the Russian-built cryogenic engines cannot have any military applications. It is argued that it makes no sense for the Indian military to employ a rocket motor which has to be put on alert three months before it can be launched, at a time when they have a booster built under a French licence that takes minutes to fire.

According to space experts, cryogenic engines are, no doubt, useful for placing loads into high stationary orbits as they can create greater thrust. Many people, both here in India and in Russia, have started wondering whether the American pressure is to force India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). But it is significant to note what Mr Vladimir Sementsov, head of the export control division of the Ministry of Economy in Russia, recently said. He observed that had India adhered to the NPT, it would have made things much easier in issue concerning the supply of cryogenic engines to it.

Interestingly, the head of Glavcosmos and some key men in the Russian space industry last month signed a protest letter to their country's Parliament accusing the Foreign Ministry of "kowtowing to the Americans and prevailing upon the President, Mr Boris Yeltsin, to suspend the contract without first consulting space experts." Describing the US stand as "protectionist" the protest letter warned that breaking of the contract would "jeopardise the longstanding cooperation with India and will have negative political consequences."

What is worrying the Russian experts is that break of the contract with India would mean their space industry losing tens of thousands of jobs and ultimately spoiling its international market goodwill. For many years now, the Russian space industry has been the target of the United States, which has again and again turned down requests from Americans to have their satellites, using American components, launched by Russian rockets. Earlier, these refusals were justified because of cold war but America is still saying "no to everyone for such requests" as it continues to view Russia as its rival in space and certain high technology industries.

Only time will tell whether America will succeed in "dollarising space," when it has failed to do so the earth planet [sentence as published]. A small nation—Japan—has "Yened" the United States. When the American President George Bush, some time ago visited Tokyo, with the US business giants, including big car companies' top executives in tow, the Japanese media settled the score with the West; honour-loving Japanese had not forgotten the humiliation that their Premier had got during his visit to a European country after the Second World War, whose president had described him as "Oh! that lantern salesman from the East." For President Bush, the Japanese media wrote: "Oh! That auto-salesman from the West." Perhaps, India should learn from Japan how to protect its national honour.

Media Employees Suspend 'Agitation' Over Punjab

BK2905162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] A message received just now says that the employees associations of AIR and Doordarshan [television] have suspended their agitation for the time being following a request by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Radio, TV Stations Resume Operation

BK0106011092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] All stations of All India Radio [AIR] and Doordarshan [television] in Punjab resumed transmission of programs late last evening after four days of suspension. The resumption of programs followed personal intervention of the directors general of AIR and Doordarshan who persuaded the agitating employees in Chandigarh and Jullundur to resume work. Earlier, both the directors general had a meeting with the home secretaries and DGP's [directors general of police] of Punjab and Chandigarh and discussed arrangements to beef up security arrangements for the electronic media in Punjab and Chandigarh. All stations of the electronic media in

Punjab and Chandigarh had gone off the air following the killing of Mr. M.L. Manchanda, station engineer of AIR, Patiala, by militants.

Press Alleges Police Censorship, Harassment

BK2905152092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The All India Newspaper Editors Conference has expressed shock at the confiscation of some newspapers in Chandigarh. A press release issued in New Delhi alleged that police officials in Chandigarh and Punjab deleted sentences and paragraphs and entire stories before printing. It also said that vehicles distributing newspaper copies were stopped and hawkers were harassed.

Iran

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers, Remarks on Lebanon

LD2905105692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Today's Friday prayers were held at Tehran University, led by Ayatollah Yazdi, Judiciary head and Tehran's interim Friday imam. He began by referring to the start of the fourth session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] and the guidelines of the leader of the the revolution [Khamene'i] for the deputies. He enumerated the salient points of this crucial message—especially those regarding the Majles and the deputies' rights, saying: As the leader graciously mentioned in his message, being a deputy is one of the divine blessings, and the Majles is the pride and manifestation of the people's trust.

Referring to the soundness of this session's elections, he praised the noble and self-sacrificing Iranian nation for their widespread participation in the election as well as the observers and officials.

Ayatollah Yazdi—enumerating the characteristics of the Fourth Majles deputies, especially from the point of view of the high level of learning and increased presence of women in this session—pointed out their heavy responsibility in considering all-pervading and infrastructural tasks, as well as attention to be paid to the operational difficulties of laws being approved by them. He stressed the need to utilize the knowledge and experiences of the deputies from former Majles sessions in the system's various sectors.

On the threshold of the heartrending passing away of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, his eminence Imam Khomeyni, the Judiciary head said: The Iranian nation will never forget this sorrow. But what consoles us is the fact that the leadership of the system is in the hands of a deserving successor and capable faqih [jurisconsult] acquainted with world issues who pursues the imam's path with firmness and power. He also called for holding the anniversary of the imam's demise as gloriously as possible and said: Holding the ceremony in a spectacular way will glorify Islam, the revolution and Islamic laws.

Continuing, Tehran's interim Friday imam considered the great Hajj Congress to be the best place and time for raising the issues of the world of Islam, the exchange of views of Muslims and struggle against world arrogance in the form of disavowal of the infidel, and he stressed the need for its implementation.

Ayatollah Yazdi condemned the savage attacks against southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime and the merciless massacre and the silence of the world toward such tyrannies. He considered that American support of the Zionist regime makes that regime bolder in committing further crimes.

The Judiciary head gave a short report about his visit to Sistan va Baluchestan and called on everyone to observe the rule of law so that order can be established.

Further Reportage on Fourth Majles Session

Yazdi Makes Address

LD2905191492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1023 GMT 29 May 92

[Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi at Tehran University on 29 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: [passage omitted]

I took note of several pertinent issues to discuss with you during this limited opportunity. The first issue is the start of work by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In recent days, all of us have heard and read the precise, firm, invaluable, and guiding remarks by the exalted leadership, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants: God's peace be upon the Prophet and his scion] May God prolong his noble shadow, whether in the final or the inaugural statements.

There are numerous points in the remarks of the exalted leadership that, naturally, cannot be properly elucidated within a limited opportunity. Since I had one or two small points to make, it occurred to me at least to refer to one or two of his brief points in his remarks and then talk about my subject. [passage omitted]

Regarding the friends who were in the former Majles session and are not in the present session, all the authorities graciously said—and this is true—that on principle experience is an asset. That is when someone works at something for a while and gains some knowledge; this knowledge is experience. This experience must be put to work—at the consultation level, the deputy level, the cooperation level, and responsibility level [as heard], according to existing criteria. I am sure that all those who have such experience and have not gained votes—for whatever reason—their experiences will naturally be utilized in the system. And they can serve the system. As mentioned in the exalted leadership's remarks, stepping aside, separating, and distancing oneself is a cardinal sin. It is not acceptable to God that one should say that because of minor or personal reasons—or matters of choice—one cannot work any more, or that one is demoralized, etc. No. One must really serve the system by one's experience and knowledge as much as one can.

The next issue is honoring the third anniversary of the imam's demise, may God be satisfied with him. [passage omitted] One misses the imam within the system. One sees the effects and blessings of that worthy spirit in the system. The only thing that consoles one to a certain extent is the acceptance of responsibility by the worthy child of the imam, our exalted leader—a person of whom the imam spoke about his competence for leadership. He has undertaken the responsibility and during this short space of time we all saw the same line, the same idea, and the same path. With what firmness, expansiveness, power, and exactitude he has properly performed the leadership task, the support and safeguarding of this nation, and in fact the safeguarding of the Islamic community even in international issues. [Crowd chants: God is great.]

[passage omitted] There is another important point: In any case, the law must be the basis for action. Everyone must obey the law. If the country is to have its required order and be successful in its tasks, the law must rule. No one is above the law; no one can do as they please. And when you ask them: Why did you do this? Unfortunately, they even tell an official at my level: Did not the imam say that if the officials do not do it, then you do it yourself.

What sort of interpretation is this? Does this mean the imam said: You do as you please? Go out on the streets tomorrow and confront whoever you like, and then, if we ask why, you can answer: The imam said if the officials do not do it, then you do it! The imam never said: Do not obey the law. Do not observe discipline. If the officials do not do it, then you do it, which means: you tell the officials, you follow the issue. You call on the officials and seek their permission. If anyone does anything without an official's permission—especially when it is against the law—they have definitely committed a crime.

Do you not know that during these conditions, when a couple of people... [changes thought] They could even come without any ulterior motives, or even with the intention of getting closer to God. They gather on a corner and a few faithful people gather behind them, and then they start marching. They want to forbid wrongdoing. The counterrevolution sees a good opportunity and gathers behind them. In a short time, the crowd starts marching in the streets. They smashed the place up! What does this mean? And they call it forbidding wrongdoing!

When I approached the law enforcement official directly involved and asked him what this was all about, he said: This was not endorsed by the committee. [as heard, not further expanded] I said: If it was not endorsed by the committee, how could this take place. He said: I personally opposed this, I told you so, and you have seen the committee's agenda. Yes, I did see the agenda. Of course, one of the high-ranking officials, a responsible commander, wrote to me officially stating that this affair had nothing to do with him.

Something occurs in the heart of Tehran, and they say: The imam said you do it yourself! The president is at your service; the interior minister is at your service; the competent commanders of the law enforcement forces obey you through the interior minister, through the commander in chief. Other ministries are at your service. They have duties; they must be coordinated so that a task can be done. No one says: Do not perform the task. But working outside the law is dangerous. The enemy uses this, they created headaches in various corners of the country everyday. And they call it.... [sentence unfinished as heard]

Before my recent trip, I went to a certain province. I knew some of them from before—very faithful people. One or two of them who took over the leadership of a certain movement were even famous before the revolution as Velayati people, in other words, extremely worthy people. I knew some of them. A certain holy lady among them is quite influential and holds sessions. A number of people gather around her. So, a few holy men and a number of holy women led by a religious lady come along and do a certain thing. We ask them: What are you doing? They answer: Forbidding wrongdoing.

I say that the fetus that was miscarried while you were conducting your prohibition of vice will face you on the Day of Reckoning and tell you that the sin of causing the miscarriage of a pregnant woman by frightening her—in the course of that incident—is much graver than the good deed that you believe you did by frightening two women into adjusting their chadors. At times these individuals ascribed their actions to the authorities, but when I approached a senior cleric in that regard, he said: When did I ever say that? That is not what I ordered. In any case, I announce from this platform that be it in Tehran, in the other provinces and towns, or anywhere throughout this country, the people must naturally be involved. They are there; they have been witnessing; they are indeed distressed; they have grievances, and they voice them. Action must be taken but through the right channels. If you go through the right channels, whatever you do will be legal: If you arrest people, imprison them, detain them, or punish them in any other way; it will be all right; but if you even slap someone in the face without a legal warrant, it will be considered a crime. Why? Because that would encourage one to slap whoever one holds a grievance against. That is no kind of order in this country. [passage omitted] Fortunately, I was told that that issue was taken care of. They were given a warning by some of the seniors. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, when I look at the agenda of the Supreme National Security Council, I can see that a proposal is on the agenda, and some of the honorable ministers who are members are here today. Whenever we asked them why the proposal was delayed, on hearing their explanations I always felt that the Council was in the right. Brothers, sisters, the question of observing public decency in this country is a very important issue. But if a more important issue comes up—such as, for example, the collapse of the atheistic government in the East—gaining independence by our neighboring countries, and competition over attracting those republics and dealing with related matters, should we attend to the question of saving an Islamic country, encouraging it, establishing links with it—is that more important or the issue of, for example, lack of sufficient attention to the hejab in our own country? Both things are important. But that one is the most pressing; this one can be dealt with later. I just want to say that if this proposal was slightly delayed, it is because other important issues kept coming up, and it was a duty to deal with those issues and then to come back to this one. Do not think—God forbid—that the authorities are not concerned about this issue. No, that is not at all the case. All the country's authorities—starting from the first person, the eminent leader—down to the lower ranks, everybody is concerned about this system, Islam, and the revolution. But the needs that I mentioned sometimes cause delays. [passage omitted]

Provisional Speaker, Presidium Elected

LD3005102592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 92

[Excerpt] The first open session of the fourth Majles was held this morning, chaired by Mr. Mahdavi Kermani, the most senior deputy. The deputies voted to elect the Majles provisional presidium, and 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri—a Tehran deputy—was elected provisional speaker of the Islamic Majles by 203 out of 240 cast votes. He was the only applicant for the position. Votes also were taken during this session to elect other members of the provisional presidium, comprising two deputy speakers, six secretaries, and three service managers [karpardaz]. The result of the voting was postponed to this afternoon's open session, which will be held after a few hours of recess. [passage omitted]

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0930 GMT on 30 May, in a further report, adds the following: "During an open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles]—which started a few moments ago—the results of the elections for the provisional Majles presidium were announced as follows: Messrs. Hasan Rohani, with 198 votes, and Akbar Parvaresh, with 186 votes, were elected the first and second deputy speakers. Messrs. Sharhrzad, Bahonar, Angaji, Akrami, Sobhani-Nia, and Rahimi were elected secretaries. In addition, Messrs Taqavi, Za'eri, and Askar-Owladi were chosen Majles service managers."]

'Hooligans' Clash With City Officials in Mashhad

'Thousands' Stage Protest

LD3105111392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Yesterday, when city workers tried to execute the law about preventing the illegal construction of buildings in the holy city of Mashhad, a rabble ensued and the offenders confronted and beat up the officials, and—to achieve their illegal results in holy Mashhad—they began destroying and setting ablaze a number of vehicles and buildings, looting property and shops.

To confront yesterday's despicable action, tens of thousands of people in the holy city of Mashhad took to the streets today—closing their shops and businesses—to participate in large-scale demonstrations asking the government to deal with such disruptive actions decisively. They also called on judicial authorities not to show the least tolerance or sympathy in the face of such counterrevolutionary actions by these kinds of hooligans and offenders and to give them their just rewards.

According to the Central News Unit reporter, a number of the perpetrators and the people involved in yesterday's disturbances were arrested and handed over to judicial authorities.

300 'Hooligans' Arrested

LD3105155192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the wake of the unruly actions of a number of saboteurs in Mashhad—which caused damage to people's property—various groups of people came out into the streets and rallied from the Martyrs' [Shohada] Square to the eighth imam's immaculate shrine to express their abhorrence toward the incidents that occurred last night and yesterday. [passage omitted]

In the gathering at the shrine—at which the Vali-e Faqih's [the Supreme Jurisconsult] representative in Khorasan Province and the shrine of Imam Reza and the commander of the country's law enforcement forces were also present—Mr. Jannati, Khorasan governor, delivered a speech.

Praising the presence of the forever-on-the scene faithful and revolutionary people in various arenas in defending the Islamic Revolution and its achievements, Mr. Jannati thanked the people of Mashhad for their prompt and apt response in confronting the hooligans last night.

Announcing over 300 hooligans' arrest, he said: The Islamic Revolution Court began the work of cross-examining them last night, and we hope that a number of those directly involved in this incident will soon receive their just rewards.

Interior Minister on Incident

LD3105162592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 31 May 92

[Interview with Interior Minister 'Abdollah Hamid Nuri-Hoseynabadi with unidentified correspondent on 31 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Nuri, yesterday we witnessed the incidents in the holy city of Mashhad. Please tell us about that and tell us what the Interior Ministry's interpretation is in this connection? What issues are involved?

[Nuri-Hoseynabadi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. As you said and as reported in the news yesterday, a number of offenders—with a number of hooligans' provocation—participated in very ugly and offensive acts in the holy city of Mashhad. This led to anxiety among the brave and honorable people of the holy city of Mashhad and disturbed their peace of mind. And today, our dear people closed their shops and participated in an extensive demonstration to express their anger and revulsion about yesterday's unacceptable behavior. In one sentence, let me say that what happened in the incident, in my opinion—as one of the officials serving in the Iranian Government—arose out of the excessive kindness and sympathy that our Islamic government shows, and, as a result, some hooligans and offenders became bold.

In our assessment, when we studied the situation, we decided that, on the one hand, in the holy city of Mashhad—which, with the addition of foreign nationals, has a population of over 2 million—2 million people are in a state of anxiety due to the unacceptable actions of a limited number of offenders and people who have problems; just so that they can set a vehicle or a building on fire, destroy things, destroy shops, and loot people's property. That is to say, on the one hand, we have to think about our dear people who are anxious and who perhaps look to us, as officials, with anxiety and dissatisfaction. On the other hand, there are a number of vagrants who believe that they can give grist to the enemy's mill with their actions.

Well, today, in the demonstrations, the people were totally upset and wanted to know why such a thing happened. Why was it allowed? Why was it not confronted? They wanted the judiciary to act as soon as possible and to prevent such incidents. And they expressed their support for punishments in keeping with what such corrupt people deserve.

I believe that for the sake of our dear people's peace of mind and in order to implement the law all over the country and to reassure the sincere forces of the revolution, the Interior Ministry and the state law enforcement authorities are dutybound to deal with such incidents harshly and decisively; though I believe that it is highly unlikely that we will have a repeat of such incidents in the future, but it would be wise for us to take every precaution. We will not permit such moves, which could deprive millions of our dear people of their peace of mind, and such moves will be dealt with most decisively. No doubt the judicial department will, in turn, conduct its responsibility and take decisive, speedy, and serious measures against moves of this sort, which inflict damage on the national wealth, the people's assets, and public facilities.

We expect the people to remain patient with their responsible officials. We hope to act against these problems very quickly, God willing. We hope not to witness a repeat of such incidents by saboteurs, for—in accordance with the serious request of our people—we will never permit a repeat of such incidents. In the future, as soon as we feel that some corrupt elements plan to start such a move, we will punish them on charges of corruption immediately, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Hajj Supervisor Urges Good Behavior at Pilgrimage

LD1705164192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0245 GMT 17 May 92

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, leader's representative for Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization; place and date not given; recorded—from the "Morning, Life, and Work" program]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] As the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims in the immaculate house of God, do you have any messages for the pilgrims of the house of God?

[Reyshahri] My advice to the pilgrims of the house of God is that they should do their utmost to utilize this once in a lifetime opportunity that will not occur again—for most of them—in their lives.

They must not commit any act that may infringe Islamic unity over there. They must attend Sunni brothers' congregational prayers.

My other advice is to forget easy-living, comfort, and enjoyment during this trip. Of course, our efforts—and those of everyone involved in the pilgrimage headquarters—are designed to make sure that they have a comfortable trip. But the basis of this journey is to shoulder the hardship and pain and strengthen the spirit. The conditions that exist in [Saudi] Arabia—there are many difficulties there and whatever one may do, there will be problems. In any case, they should realize from now that this trip is not one for enjoyment and entertainment. It is a journey to visit the house of God and a pilgrimage of God. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni on 'Political Obligations' of Hajj

NC2305205292 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 May 92 p 2

[Report from the news desk]

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni addressed a gathering of the hajj caravans held at the pure mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He referred to the characteristics of a politico-monotheistic hajj, saying:

According to the views of the imam (peace be upon him), disavowing the polytheists of the world is one of the pillars of monotheism and is one of the political obligations of the hajj. Throughout the course of the hajj period, more frequent and better marches and demonstrations should be held. Pilgrims from all over the world should participate with the coordination of hajj officials and should raise a crushing cry against polytheists and apostates of world arrogance, spearheaded by the world-devouring United States, in the vicinity of the house of monotheism.

He added: The declaration of disavowing the polytheists is not tantamount to opposition to the Saudi and similar governments but to the pagans of the world, who are led by the United States. This is considered the fundamental principle of the hajj of Abraham for all Islamic nations, which should continue during the course of contemporary and future history of the world of Islam, until atheism and polytheism are dispelled. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni said: The Muslims of all countries should declare their united disavowal of the new world order and never accept the absolute domination of one country over all the people of the world. It is the duty of all Iranian pilgrims to enlighten the minds of all the pilgrims regarding the distinctive characteristics of the Abrahamite hajj from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him).

In another part of his address, he called exposing the repulsive visage of media imperialism in its approach to events in the world of Islam a major obligation of the Iranian pilgrims, stressing: The West is seeking, with all possible tactics and instruments at its disposal, to distort the facts in the world of Islam or simply to boycott such reportage. Today we can see that media imperialism does not reflect the decisive and uncompromising positions of the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

On the other hand, it attempts to create rumors and tries to instill pessimism by attempting to portray that the Islamic system has deviated from the imam's line and is tilting toward the West and that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran no longer has the same sensitivity to the imam's positions as before.

Therefore, it concentrated its negative propaganda during the fourth Majles elections about this point and implied that if the hardline faction is eliminated, the path to the West will be open for Iran or that if the moderate faction comes into power the revolutionaries of all Islamic countries will become confused. You, the Iranian pilgrims, should know that the best opportunity for neutralizing the plots of media imperialism is at the hajj rituals.

Khomeyni said that the dictum of "neither East nor West" is one of the fundamental precepts of the Islamic revolution in the world of the oppressed and hungry. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks about the need for seriously combating the brutal and decadent economics-oriented culture of the West and the economic policies of the investors of world arrogance, Khomeyni said: The economic and political domination of the powers of world arrogance toward Islamic nations have imposed a new form of slavery on them and deprived them of their right to make decisions regarding international economic issues. Therefore, despite the fact that they possess an abundance of resources, they are wallowing in poverty and deprivation. They have been convinced by the powers of world arrogance's colonialist thinking that they should live under the influence of these powers, otherwise there is no other fate for the barefoot ones but to wallow in poverty. It is our important obligation to replace this incorrect system prevailing in the world of Islam with constructive plans and programs that incorporate the interests of the deprived and the barefoot ones of the Islamic nations, thereby extricating the world of the oppressed and of the Muslims from the straits of penury. [passage omitted]

Pilgrims Mark 3d Anniversary of Khomeyni's Death

LD2705210892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tens of thousands of pilgrims to the Sanctified House of God held a ceremony across from the leadership's designated residence in shining [monavvareh] Medina yesterday, marking the third anniversary of the passing of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—may God be satisfied with him.

According to our correspondent's report, during this glorious ceremony the participants—while honoring the memory and name of the great leader of the revolution, his eminence Imam Khomeyni—renewed their allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i as the guardian of the Muslim cause and the leader of the Islamic revolution.

During the ceremony, [Hajj supervisor] Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Reyshahri said: We have gathered in this place to honor the memory of the self-sacrifice of a superman [abar mard] who made the world of Islam dynamic and enthusiastic and bestowed honor and greatness on Muslims.

The leadership's envoy and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims of the House of God then said: His eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God Almighty be satisfied with him—was the personification of Islam in the present age.

His popularity among Muslims was under the auspices of faith and pious deeds, since the departed imam—just like a solid mountain—stood fast against the East and West's conspiracies and pressure and was not afraid of any obstacles in the way toward the goal. And today his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is the flag-bearer of this resistance.

Reyshahri then referred to the importance of Muslim unity and added: If Muslims were united, we would not have witnessed the bitter incidents that are happening in occupied Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Kashmir. The leadership's envoy said that whether the world of arrogance wants it, the new world order will be formed on the basis of the ideals of our departed imam. He added: Criminal America cannot impose her new world order on the world by force and bullying.

According to the report, the pilgrims participating in the ceremony later left the area in an order befitting a revolutionary nation and went to the pure shrine of Mohammad—may God's blessing be upon him and his scions—to perform the evening prayers.

Besharati Requests Larger Quota for Pilgrims

LD3105204592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpt] The deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran—Mr. Besharati—at a meeting with the Saudi Arabian minister of pilgrimage affairs and religious trusts, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wasi', on Sunday evening asked for a larger quota of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God.

According to a report of the Islamic Republic News Agency, in the course of this meeting in Jeddah, Mr. Besharati expressed gratitude for the efforts undertaken and the facilities provided for Iranian pilgrims and expressed the hope that this year's hajj would be an Abrahamite Hajj [as performed by Abraham] and would create an opportunity for solving the problems of the Islamic world.

During this meeting, the Saudi minister praised the order and discipline observed by the Iranian pilgrims' convoys and the special care given to the pilgrims' affairs in various fields.

New Mobilization Units To Be Established by Sep

LD2905112992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Basij [mobilization] resistance forces will be established throughout the country by the end of the first half of the current [Iranian] year [by 22 September]. Those groups will be established within the cells of Hezbollah, groups of the Lord of the Martyrs [Seyyed ol-Shohada—reference to Imam Husayn, the third Shiite imam], and the 'Ashura [anniversary of Husayn's martyrdom] Battalions. Each group will perform a different mission.

The commander of the Basij Resistance Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced this news in Bushehr. About the participation of the Basijis in the country's reconstruction, he said: According to organized plans, we will establish Basij Cooperations through which the Basijis will play a role in the fields of production, services, and reconstruction. He added: They will be able to use government facilities in that regard.

He added: Agreement has been reached between the Basij Resistance Forces and the Education Ministry to establish student Basij offices in all of the schools throughout the country, and the Education Ministry and the Basij Resistance Forces will conduct defense education for students both in theory and practice.

Yazdi Urges Iranian Expatriates to Return

LD2405142592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpts] The judicial branch head, Mr. Yazdi, arrived in Bandar-e Abbas this morning to meet the people of Hormozgan Province and to assess the judicial problems of that province. He was welcomed by local officials. Our colleague reports from the Persian Gulf center:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] [passage omitted] In an interview, Mr. Yazdi spoke about the announced policies of the Iranian Government regarding the return of Iranians abroad. He said: It has been announced on many occasions that—in this country—the doors are open to the people. Anyone can return and live in his or her country. If they have committed a crime, it is obvious that they will be punished. If they have not committed a crime, they will not automatically pay any price. In certain cases, remorse by itself will clear the matter up, and in others, remorse alone will not be enough. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Yazdi Addresses Minab Residents on Border Security

NC2605072292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, judicial branch head—speaking to a gathering of Minab residents and explaining the government's programs about ensuring full security in the country's border areas—stated: The Iranian Government will firmly confront all those who intend to deprive the people of their security and tranquillity.

Our correspondent reports from the Persian Gulf that Yazdi attended the Hormozgan Province Administrative Council meeting last night and explained the steps being taken by the Judicial Branch in the country. He also said that the formation of the International Affairs

Department in the Judicial Branch will bolster the branch's presence in international forums.

Culture, Islamic Guidance Minister on Policies

LD0305175992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The culture and Islamic guidance minister said that the foundations of many government cultural activities are based on the views of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni]—God's benedictions be upon him—and the honorable leader. And they are also endorsed by the system.

Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami-Ardakani—participating in a question and answer session with students marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of lecturer Mottahari at Tehran University Mosque—remarked about the influence of Islamic ideology, which has escalated throughout the world since the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic. He remembered the honorable martyr Ayatollah Mottahari as the pioneer of Islamic vision and noted: Today, we are in need of martyr Mottahari's ideology more than any other time.

About the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry's programs and policies, Mr. Khatami-Ardakani said: The foundations of the majority of art and cultural activities are based on the views of his eminence the imam and the esteemed leadership, and they are also approved by the system. Of course, there are people who do not accept our programs and oppose them. That is inappropriate to say that their views should be granted action. We say that the views of the imam—God's mercy upon him—and those of the leadership should be granted action.

Mr. Khatami-Ardakani said: We do not claim that our work is faultless, but it is not incorrect that through their opposition some people try to question—directly or indirectly—the views of his eminence the imam, God's benedictions be upon him. If there is a dispute against a piece of film or music, we cannot declare films or music as inadmissible and thereby spoil the whole issue. About the actions taken by the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry to counter cultural onslaught, the culture and Islamic guidance minister said: As the person in charge of the Guidance Ministry, I believe we have been most active in that regard, and we are among the most active committees set up to confront such onslaught.

Mr. Khatami-Ardakani referred to the offense committed by FARAD magazine and said: That is the biggest press offense that has occurred in the country. It had to be strongly dealt with, and it was dealt with. The magazine's license to print was revoked, and its file was handed over to the judicial authorities.

Mr. Khatami-Ardakani added: We defended the press law, and we will continue to do so. We will also decisively deal with any kind of violations of it. But we also advise those who use this issue as a means to their own ends to exercise fairness.

Population Said To Increase to Over 58 Million

LD2605225892 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—The total population of Iran reached 58,110,227 by the end of the last calendar year (ended March 21), indicating an average increase of 3.28 percent over the past five years, Iran's center for statistical surveys announced here today.

Tehran was the most populous city during the period with its share of the country's population growing to 10.3 million from 8.7 million in March 1987.

Over the said period population growth of urban areas almost doubled to that of rural areas.

According to the census, literates, 6-year olds and above, made up 74.3 percent of the population, which in other words means that 3 out of every 4 persons are literate in Iran.

A quarter of the population or precisely 25.2 percent was involved in business.

The per capita consumption of red meat in urban areas was 1.4 times higher than that of rural areas, whereas in 1986-87 it was 2.7 times higher.

Chicken consumption of every urban individual was 9.2 kgs, four kgs more than his rural counterpart, while the figure was 11 kgs and 2 kgs for urban and rural individuals respectively in 1989-90.

In 1986-87, meat consumption of households was higher because of higher incomes. 13.6 percent meat included the daily consumption of 2888 calories of an urban individual, whereas the rural individual was content with 9.5 percent meat which comprised his daily consumption of 3187 calories.

Construction Envoy on Rebuilding War-Torn Areas

LD2405151792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpts] Some 350 billion rials were allocated for reconstructing the war-torn areas during the current year [Iranian year: 21 March 1992 to 20 March 1993]. So far, 287 billion rials were divided between the war-torn provinces.

Mr Mirzadeh—vice president for executive affairs and presidential special envoy for reconstruction and construction—stated: Besides this, $150 million in foreign currency have been set aside for securing the equipment and requirements for reconstructing these areas. Noting that, so far, 405,000 people have been settled in war-torn areas, he added: Half of the allocated amount for reconstructing the war-torn areas will be spent on compensating losses incurred by the people. In addition, development and banking credit amounting to 30 billion rials are envisioned through the third note of the budget act regarding job creation schemes in the war-torn areas, and the ministries and public organizations were instructed to allocate $100 million for this. Goods imported through Khorramshahr and Choybideh ports were exempted from 30 percent of their import duty. [passage omitted]

He added: To help resettle rural inhabitants in the war-torn areas, the loss payment ceiling was increased from 2.4 million rials to 3 million rials for each rural housing unit. [passage omitted]

The vice president said the envisioned credit for compensating the losses sustained by rural inhabitants through the war is 9.9 billion rials. After referring to interest-free loans and a commission of between 5 and 6 percent for helping with constructing housing units for the war-torn areas, he called on all our people to participate in reconstructing these areas.

Darvishi Bridge Completed in Khuzestan Province

LD2605222792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A concrete bridge—named after martyr Darvishi [Darvishi-Fard Bridge]—north of Omidiyeh was commissioned. Please pay attention to the report of our colleage from the Ahvaz center:

[Unidentified correspondent] Martyr Darvishi-Fard Bridge—on the Zohreh River in Khuzestan Province—was commissioned today before noon.

The bridge, situated 30 km north of Omidiyeh on the Zohreh River, is 720 meters long and eight meters wide. It has three outlets built over 29 concrete foundations. The bridge cost 1.6 billion rials, earmarked from current funds allocated to the oil-producing regions of the south.

Commissioning the bridge means that Khuzestan Province is linked to the highway network of the country's coastal provinces. Also, the distance from Fars, Bushehr and Kohkiluyeh via Boyer-Ahmad provinces with Kuhzestan will be shorter by around 30 km.

A number of Khuzestan Province officials were present at the ceremonies marking the inauguration of Martyr Darvishi-Fard Bridge.

Editorial on Significance of Phase One Elections

NC2305161092 Tehran SORUSH in Persian 2 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "A Bright Outlook"]

[Text] What is the significance of the first phase of the elections that have passed and the second and more sensitive phase that lies ahead? Why is the current juncture so extraordinarily sensitive?

When the first phase of the elections was completed, observers said that the people's participation and their votes actually reflected what the people felt and had to say and that this was expressed in the form of the votes they cast. Despite the encouragement by opponents not to participate in the elections, the people's participation was on an acceptable and laudable level. The distribution of votes among the candidates carried a very explicit and unmistakable message: The people are tired of factions and controversies gradually becoming a chronic political disease, and they want their deputies' only inclination to be toward national benefits and the interests of Iranian society and the greater Islamic society.

In the debates that are carried out from one of the country's most important tribunes, the Majles, the basis of discussions should be reality and expert views stemming from the Islamic and ideological inclinations of the deputies rather than the ambitious lines followed by specific groups.

Finally, people see recent developments not as a deviation from our late imam's policies but as a continuation of the revolution and as a new appearance of its values, which have been based on the grandeur of divine Islamic system and were expressed by our late imam. They consider this development and evolution to have continued throughout the revolution and 10 years after victory under the leadership of the great leader of the revolution and a development and evolution that is progressing rapidly today under the esteemed leadership of the leader.

The world around us is changing at a giddying speed. Our officials on the international and domestic scenes are trying to expertly and safely steer the ship of our country out of restless waters. If officials and statesmen operate according to a series of preplanned directives and rules and remain stable and coordinated in the face of all odds, no country will need statesmen and diplomats, and policy and diplomacy will be meaningless.

We only need to glance at our neighbors. What has remained stable and unchanged around us? Within a month and a half Iraq was reduced from a developed country with immense military and economic potential into a needy country in ruins, just because of Saddam's high-flying ambitions, because of a miscalculation and an act of aggression followed by the lack of necessary alertness and flexibility in making up for its mistakes or in retreating. Now, at the same time that it is massacring its own people it is bowing down to bullying.

In Afghanistan, efforts by the Muslim combatant nation for the umpteenth time in the history of that country have led to victory over foreign occupiers and their minions. Developments taking place in Afghanistan, which will continue, will definitely have their impact on all relations and incidents in this sensitive region for some time to come.

To the north of our country, all of a sudden six Muslim republics and several non-Muslim republics have been born. Despite the disintegration of old blocs and the emergence of new ones and of changes in the world's power structure, our officials were able to help the country gain the position it deserved and to use all incidents to the benefit of the grandeur of the system, thanks to their deliberate and balanced policies.

When the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] session was held in Tehran on the highest level in its history and the newly independent Muslim republics zealously became members, observers described this as a great success scored by our diplomacy. Next to these incidents, the Islamic Republic of Iran powerfully continued to follow the aspirations of the Islamic revolution in supporting the oppressed Palestinian nation and Islamic movements in all corners of the world. Because of this, it became the target of spite for the enemies of Islam headed by the United States.

How can one be an equitable Muslim and ignore all the victories that have been scored? The people showed with their votes that they are carefully following issues both on the foreign and domestic fronts and that they show interest in the course being taken by all movements.

The economy of the world today and its backbone—that is, production—has, either rightly or wrongly, turned into an interlinked network based on cooperation and relations. In other words, two principles should be taken into consideration to acquire a dynamic economy, or at least, to survive in the pitiless arena of the world economy. One is well-calculated mass production, and the other is the acquisition of as many markets as possible. To achieve production, it is necessary to improve existing potential and then lay the necessary foundations. In other words, we need to produce energy, create or expand energy transfer lines, build communication routes, and formulate and expand a trustworthy communications network. At the same time, existing production units should be activated, and new units—from heavy and infrastructural industries to small industries—should be created. Efforts should also be made to overcome obstacles and problems in producing the most strategic agricultural products so that demands for these ordinary items can be met.

We also have the issue of attracting cooperation by others in economic activities. Today even the countries that were traditionally inclined toward isolation due to various cultural and geographic elements—countries like Korea and Japan—can no longer carry out production on their own. Japan, as a threatening economic giant whose economic and industrial offensive especially in the car industry was the topic of major economic discussions in 1370 [year ending 20 March 1992] among U.S. economic circles and mass media, imports a large proportion of its car spare parts and car engines from the United States. German car industry moguls import many of their car parts, especially decorative parts for car interiors and even car bodies, from Italy.

Apart from the United States, which is actually a union of 50 states, no country was able to take any steps on its own for constructing large passenger planes. This applied until forming a consortium of European countries, which manufactured the Airbus and then the Concorde. Today, one can rarely find a more or less complicated gadget with more than 50 pieces built entirely in one country.

Today, if we look at a computer carrying a famous brand name, we can see that each one of its parts is manufactured in a different country—from Malaysia to Taiwan, and from Germany to Austria and France. Many of the well-known Japanese brands carry labels reading that they are manufactured in southeastern Asia. This type of cooperation has increased over the past two or three years when political boundaries and blocs started to lose their significance. And we have no other choice. Countries can compete in finding new markets only if they work on ways to improve quality and reduce prices.

The activities of the Iranian Government over more than two years have focused primarily on improving the country's economic structure and on working toward an equilibrium in markets to improve Iran's economic position on an international scene with such special characteristics. There are definitely many major steps that still have to be taken to achieve favorable results.

Commentary Views Second Round of Elections

NC2305182892 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 May 92 p 2

[Seyyed 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani commentary: "Who Did the Job?"]

[Text] The second phase of elections is as important as the first phase. Half of the people's deputies were elected in the first phase, and the other half will be determined by tomorrow's elections.

In view of the fact that in the constituencies where the second phase is to be held, there are twice as many candidates as seats; elections will be easier. And since the candidates have had a second chance to campaign, the people have come to know them better both as individuals and as far as their leanings are concerned. The extent of the people's votes and the criteria are clear. On this basis, it is necessary to note the following:

1. According to Article 57 of the Constitution, the legislature will be under the supervision of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult. It is very important to note this, both as far as theory and applicability are concerned.

2. The deputies swear "to defend the realms of Islam and to safeguard the achievements of the Iranian nation's Islamic revolution and the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran" and "always to be faithful to the independence of the country, elevating the country, safeguarding the rights of the nation, and serving the people."

The "elevation of the country" is an important and fateful term and is achieved under the aegis of Islam and the achievements of the Islamic revolution. The major plan and behavior of the enemies of the Islamic republic, and the enemies of Iran and the people, has been to prevent us from becoming a clear example for others to follow. Reconstructing the country and making Iran flourish should be the strong backbone of the Islamic revolution; otherwise, even in the newly independent Muslim countries to our north, another country that has greater means and potential will use these means and potential more and gain the upper hand by providing the needs of the people in these countries. Thus, in the scene of the country's reconstruction we should use all possible acceptable means within the framework of the system of the Islamic republic. For example, when the Constitution states in Article 80 that "receiving and extending domestic and foreign loans or gratis assistance by the government should be approved by the Majles," and when the third term of the Majlis—about whose credibility much has been said—has approved government use of foreign loans and assistance for agriculture and constructing dams, power plants, and so on, all our friends accept the fact that propounding the notion that we are against loans cannot be taken very seriously since the third term of the Majles has approved using foreign loans.

3. Relations between the government and the Majles are very important and sensitive. There is no doubt that the government is subject to laws that have been approved by the Majles and confirmed by the Council of Guardians. It is not an issue of coordination. It is an issue of implementation and subordination, and using foreign loans is based on implementing Addendum 29 of the five-year plan and the annual budget.

Therefore, this relationship does not mean that the government should act according to the political and economic tastes of the deputies if these tastes have not been compiled into a law. Moreover, those deputies who have previously worked in the government or past governments and who are going to the Majles are well aware that executive affairs are more onerous than legislation. Therefore, the Majles should act as the mentor and supporter of the ministers that it has assigned, for if it becomes the esprit de corps that weakens the government or the ministers, naturally no one will benefit.

4. Undoubtedly, having been a revolutionary before the victory of the revolution and having worked hard during the rule of the Islamic revolution are basic and strong principles. But the principle of being a revolutionary should not be coupled with political shortsightedness and extremism.

There is no doubt that the sweet scent of the revolution will fill the atmosphere of reconstruction and development in the country, and the participation of all of us in the elections for committed deputies will open the way for the grandeur of the Islamic revolution and the elevation of the country.

Editorial on Majles Role During Runoff Elections

NC1605195192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 May 92 p 2

[Editorial: "A Decisive Role for the Majles"]

[Text] The Majles elections have so far proved to be the most intensely contested to date, producing many new faces and leaving a relatively high number of constituencies set to hold second round run-offs tomorrow. The consequence, with candidates declared successful in half of the 270-seat assembly, has already presented a fresh complexion to the legislative chamber as it seeks to tackle perhaps its biggest challenges regarding the future property of the country.

The outcome of the first round was widely viewed as a great triumph for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with the majority of elected deputies professing support for the existing policies of the government. This, however, in no way should imply that the Majles will automatically endorse proposed legislation as each and every member is responsible personally in their undertaking and in ensuring that the interests of Islam and the nation remain the ultimate criteria.

The fourth Majles, commencing on May 28, comes at a crucial period of carrying forward the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure, that is so essential to the future well-being of society and is pervasive in affecting all. At its root, as laid down by the current Five-Year Development Plan, is the revitalization of the economy, where certain success has already been achieved but much more is still yet to be done.

The required sweeping changes need firm policies based upon calculated decisions, which the executive, in many respects, has shown but will have to continually show in guiding the nation. Yet there are many potential pitfalls ahead and numerous problems to be overcome, like unemployment and the spiralling cost of living. This is where the role of Majles, as an energetic and scrutinizing assembly, is so vital. Elected deputies will have been given a vote of confidence from the public and must prove this trust bestowed upon them, as indeed, they can demonstrate their worth to any lingering doubters.

The expectations of the people have been high since the triumphant victory of the Islamic Revolution and while it is undeniable that the founding principles of Islam, liberty and independence have been accomplished, the same cannot be said about material benefits, owing largely to problems beset by enemies of the Revolution, including in particular the 8-year imposed Iraqi war. Yet with fundamental lessons being learnt from earlier inexperiences, these have largely been overcome and the course ahead should see less obstacles.

Iran, possessing of best ideology for the way of life, has an abundance of natural resources for a brighter future and only depends upon the implementation of corrective and farsighted policies to achieve this aim. With a constructive and decisive Majles, void of deviations and back-biting, the way appears open to move forward with special emphasis being paid to eliminating social fallout hitting weaker sections of the population as commonly is seen elsewhere. As in the first round, voting is essential to ensure the best candidates are elected for the job.

Commentary Says Drug Fight Has 'Long Way To Go'

NC1705105592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0355 GMT 16 May 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] More than 100 kg of drugs were found in Kerman. Law enforcement forces announced that the fight against drugs will continue in the current [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1992]. During the first month of 1371 [month beginning 21 March 1992], drug enforcement forces found over 1,000 kg of morphine in the west of the country.

In 1371, the fight against drugs will continue to focus on ways to decrease the amount of drugs crossing the borders and ways to reduce distribution and the use of drugs in the cities. One year after merging the law enforcement forces, drug enforcement forces have gained valuable experience. They are well organized and, therefore, better prepared than before to continue to fight against drugs.

After the law enforcement forces merged last year, the drug enforcement forces' successes showed that while the fight was slow, it improved once it was fully organized and mobilized in the second part of 1370, when most of the successful operations in the east and west took place.

Last year, the fight focused on routing gangs planning to smuggle drugs; this year, the fight is expected to take on new dimensions.

The fight against the drug-distribution networks in the cities and their dealings with addicts formed part of the Val-'Adiyat operations in 1368 and 1369 [years beginning 21 March 1989 and ending 20 March 1991]. Last year, not much attention was focused on these two areas; the law enforcement forces concentrated on decreasing the huge quantities of drugs entering the country. Last year, they found 1.5 tonnes of drugs on the Tayyebat border. This year, the fight is expected to intensify inside the cities, because their drug-distribution networks are addicts' major source.

The independence of the Central Asian republics has given drug networks other international routes, but the routing of domestic networks that are seeking more markets inside Iran remains important. Large international gangs' primary objective is to maintain existing markets, find new ones, and trap more people.

Over four years of fighting drugs, addicts' approach has retained its importance. Drug enforcement officials say they know over half of the country's addicts; the hope is that more plans will be implemented to identify addicts in the cities in the current year. The approach to addicts calls for rehabilitation centers to treat them. There are 17 such centers, but we cannot meet the needs of most of the addicts identified by the Prisons Organization.

We still have a long way to go to achieve all the objectives in the fight against drugs, but a serious approach to the fight will make it easier. The hope is that the law enforcement forces will be better prepared to implement their plans and score spectacular successes this year.

President Congratulates New Italian President

LD2905184292 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Rome, May 29, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has cabled a congratulation message for his new Italian counterpart Oscar Luigi Scalfaro who was elected as the new president of Italy last Monday.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that Tehran-Rome cordial relations will be further expanded and officials of the two countries do their best to this end.

Italy is Tehran's third major economic party after Japan and Germany. Iran, in turn, ranked as the third supplier of crude oil for Italy last year.

Cited on New Envoy to Rome

AU2705112092 Rome ANSA in English 0827 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] (ANSA) Tehran, May 26—The importance of expanding relations with Italy, especially in the technical and economic fields, was stressed here today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Seyed Mohammad Hedayat-Zadeh [name as received], as the latter prepared to leave for his new post as Iranian ambassador to Rome, the Foreign Ministry said.

"I hope," a ministry communique quoted Rafsanjani as telling the ambassador, "that you will be able to make concrete steps toward the expansion and enlargement of bilateral relations with Italy."

Hedayat-Zadeh was deputy oil minister before being picked for the Rome job and was praised by Rafsanjani for his "considerable experience and heavy responsibilities held in international sectors."

Tehran-Rome Relations Viewed

NC1505123192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 May 92 pp 1, 15

[From the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] TEHRAN—Irano-Italian relations which were steadily upbeat may now face a block or hurdle in the smooth flow of better relations, observers here believe.

Tehran-Rome relations have hitherto been smooth and the embassies of the two countries have played an important role in making this possible. It was expected that these ties "will see sincere increase in diversified ways," the observer said.

"There are plenty of grounds for boosting these ties and the way prepared for both private and public sectors of the two countries to go ahead in various industrial and economic sectors.

"What we are worrying about now is the expected arrival of a newcomer in the Italian Embassy in Tehran who in no way will be welcome," the observer said, adding that those who are involved and watch closely activities related to Zionism will not be happy at all to see such an addition to the foreign diplomatic corps in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The observer, who remained anonymous, was referring to the would-be arrival of a diplomat named Saba D'elia [name as published], who is expected to join his country's Italian Embassy as number two diplomat.

He said that the same person was assigned a similar post in Syria but that Damascus refused to accept him. The observer said that the Iranian Foreign Ministry should take appropriate measures to block the arrival of such a diplomat whose presence may have an adverse impact on the smooth flow of Irano- Italian relations.

He said that "We also expect from the Italian Government to feel the sensitivity of the common people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and send a person who can take specific steps for the betterment of historical relations between the two countries."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Anti-Narcotics Efforts

LD2805224992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani—during a session of the antinarcotics headquarters that he chaired—spoke about the condition of Western communities from the viewpoint of drug addiction and stated: International organizations, especially the United Nations, must confront this global problem in a radical way through cooperation by countries, concentrating resources, and injecting huge amounts of credit in an all-around way. In particular, illegal drug cultivation areas must be identified and destroyed. The Islamic Republic of Iran should take the initiative regarding this policy. And by widespread action of the Foreign Ministry, appropriate solutions be provided.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the need for raising such matters in international forums. He then called on the forthcoming meeting of the ministers responsible for antidrug work in the Middle East to seriously assume the need for global coordination in destroying drug cultivation fields with the cooperation of related establishments. This gathering is to take place in Tehran early in Aban [Iranian month starting 23 October] of this year.

During the session, it was announced that sending addicts and professional smugglers to Farur island will start soon, considering the readiness of that island to receive them. During the session, required credit and dispatching liaison drug experts to relevant states—under the supervision of the Foreign Ministry—were approved.

Syrians Said Killed in Scud Project Accident

LD3105092592 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 31 May 92, p 20

[Report by John Bulloch]

[Text] Four Syrian Army officers have been killed while working to extend the range of Scud missiles in Iran.

The families of the four were told they had died in "a military accident". Syria and Iran signed a treaty on technical co-operation this year and a number of Syrian officers have been sent to Tehran though Syria has never acknowledged it is helping Iran's missile programme.

Iran has contracted to buy 150 Scud-D missiles from North Korea which have a range of 1,300 kilometres and can be fitted with conventional or nuclear warheads. Two months ago, a North Korean cargo ship delivered the first to the Iranian naval base at Bandar-e 'Abbas.

The missiles will cost Iran $320 million but part of the agreement with North Korea is that Iran should also acquire technology to manufacture its own rockets. Coupled with new Iranian efforts to acquire a nuclear capability Iran is believed to be intent on taking over Iraq's role as the dominant Gulf power.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran is seen as a moderate, said an intelligence analyst, but added: "When it comes to real power he is as hardline as anyone else."

Reports that Iran has two tactical nuclear shells from Kazakhstan are being taken seriously in Israel. The shells would not be used but could be copied. Israeli commentators said the head of Iran's nuclear programme, Dr 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, is now a deputy prime minister reporting directly to Mr Rafsanjani.

Analysts do not believe Iran would attack Israel but there could be a conflict if there was a war between Israel and Syria. Relations are strained after Israeli air raids in south Lebanon, which is supposed to be under Syrian protection.

Without Moscow to hold him back, President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria could invoke his alliance with Iran if there was a conflict with Israel. Iran's only practical means of helping would be to threaten Israel with missile attacks.

Iraqi Marshlands Civilians Killed in Daily Raids

LD2705095892 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Tens of Iraqi civilians who have sought shelter in the southern marshlands of the country are killed every day in bombardments carried out in defiance of the UN Resolutions which prevents the Iraqi Army from conducting military operations.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) in a statement here Tuesday also announced that the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters conduct reconnaissance flights over the marshlands every day and shell the defenceless people in the area.

The statement added that fightings between the pro-Saddam elements and the popular forces have relatively subsided since last Monday as the regime is reorganizing its forces in the area and putting them under the direct command of Defence Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Rebels Kill 500 Iraqi Soldiers

LD3005111192 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 30, IRNA—Some 500 Iraqi soldiers have been killed by the popular forces in the southern marshlands of the country, reliable sources told IRNA here Friday. The sources added that a substantial amount of military equipment of the Iraqi Army were destroyed. The army was forced to retreat after four days of attacks which was aimed at crushing the opposition forces who had sought shelter in the southern marshlands.

State Department Report: Iran Supports Terrorism

LD0105220292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] One again the U.S. State Department alleged that Iran supports international terrorism. In its annual report, the U.S. State Department does not mention the crimes and terrorist acts committed by the Quds occupying the regime [Israel]—particularly those in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon—but terms Iran's support for the struggles of the oppressed nations of Palestine and Lebanon as support for terrorism.

In that report, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Iraq, and Syria were also called terrorism supporters.

Commentary on Terrorism Accusations

NC2305153592 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 May 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Recognized U.S. Ploy Against Iran"]

[Text] Pursuing its "new world order," the United States has resorted to a not so new tactic, recently accusing one country of religious or political movements, of "Islamic fundamentalism," of planting bombs or committing terrorism. First, it arouses international sentiments against that particular country, and then it enters the fray.

An obvious example of this policy is the multilateral boycott of Libya by the United Nations. By accusing two Libyans of planting bombs on American and French airplanes, the United States entered a new phase in its hostility against Libya.

This is at a time when U.S. blacks who live in this "cradle of false culture and freedom" are increasingly being harassed and molested.

Last week, the Cuban Government presented incontrovertible documentary evidence and asked the United Nations to condemn the United States for its attack on a Cuban passenger plane in 1975 and to have it make reparation, but the Security Council rejected the request without giving any acceptable reason. Again, this step proved that the West's claims on human rights and condemnation of terrorism are nothing but a ploy.

Continuing this policy, the U.S. media yesterday announced that based on irrefutable evidence obtained by the U.S. State Department, the Iranian Government was directly involved in the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. The report claims that Iranian representatives in Latin America prepared the preliminaries. The Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires immediately denied any involvement.

The United States is trying to accuse the free countries of terrorism and similar charges and to extort concessions from them. No doubt, if the U.S. Government implements this policy to eliminate resistance, it will use it again as one of the formulae for the new world order.

If the country that has been accused of terrorism and planting bombs is intimidated by such allegations, the United States will have achieved its goal and will use it internationally against all its opponents. Foreign policy officials' vigilance and their swift reaction in exposing the Western ploy can defeat this formula, much to the chagrin of those who direct U.S. foreign policy.

Besharati Criticizes South Lebanon Attacks

LD2905143592 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—The head of the Judiciary today blasted the attacks of the terrorist state of Israel on southern Lebanon, saying that the cruel massacre of defenseless people has aroused hatred and indignation in the hearts of world Muslims against the Zionists.

In his Friday prayer sermons at Tehran University campus, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said the usurper regime was emboldened in its actions in southern Lebanon because of the U.S. financial, political and military support and its fear of the power of Islam. [passage omitted]

The pre-sermon speaker of the week was First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who reiterated Iran's strong opposition to nuclear weapons.

He said the Islamic Republic to preserve its territorial integrity and sovereignty, "will acquire any kind of conventional weapons but will never go for atomic arms."

Besharati also brushed aside allegations of the West and enemies of the Islamic Republic on Iran's violation of human rights, saying "the degree of Tehran's observation of human rights is higher than in many progressive countries of the world."

The West's idea of human rights, he pointed out, "is against all Islamic and humanitarian standards."

The Foreign Ministry official also dismissed as 'lies' American Secretary of State James Baker's charges that Iran had a hand in the recent unrest that shook Los Angeles.

"Iran does not interfere in the internal issues of any country," he added.

The unrests in Los Angeles and several other cities last month were the result of the savage beating of a black American citizen, Rodney King, by four white policemen. The incident infuriated the oppressed black community, who vented their anger against decades of injustice suffered at the hands of the American Administration.

Sheykholeslam Cited on Support for Hizballah

LD2705102792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly supports the people's Islamic uprising in southern Lebanon, supports the Palestinian intifadah, and regards such support as an inalieanble principle. In an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency, Mr Sheykholeslam—deputy foreign minister in charge of Arab and African affairs—stated that the recent message of the leader [Khamene'i] to the secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah was an indication of Iran's firm support for the Hizballah strugglers.

He added: Iran totally opposes disarming combatant groups in southern Lebanon. He condemned the silence by international organizations about the crimes of the Zionist regime and its vicious attacks on residential areas of southern Lebanon and said that continued silence underlined the inanity of their principles, which will lead to these organizations being discredited among world public opinion.

Referring to the vast support of the people of Lebanon for the struggles of Hizballah in southern Lebanon as well as the Zionist regime's fears of that fact, the deputy foreign minister said: The insistence by America and Israel that the Hizballah must be disarmed is a plot to disarm the Lebanese resistance; it is also a plot to massacre the resisting people of southern Lebanon.

He said that the continued and courageous uprising of the Muslim people of the occupied territories was the most important target for Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon. He then said that despite deploying all its resources, Israel has been unable to suppress the intifadah of the people of Palestine— so she intends to demoralize the Muslim people of Palestine by annihilating the Hizballah.

He said that holding the American-sponsored so-called peace conference about Palestine was a useless effort. He said that through their glorious uprising, the people of Palestine rejected in practice any kind of compromising project. He believed that the Islamic uprising of the people of the occupied territories in Palestine was inspired by the Iranian revolution. He said: As the great leader of the Islamic revolution said, the epic-making intifadah of the people of Palestine did not come by chance; rather, it is the echo of the sound of Allahu Akbar [God is Great] and the Muslims' slogan about disavowal in hajj demonstrations.

In conclusion, he reiterated Iran's firm support for anti-Zionist struggles.

Lebanon Asks For Agricultural Aid

LD2405213692 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Muhsin Dallul in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Isa Kalantari here today called for Iran's technical and scientific aids in various agricultural fields.

Dallul urged Iran to cooperate with Lebanon on agricultural industries and barter trade on various kinds of fruits.

Kalantari promised to cooperate with Lebanon in all fields and proposed the formation of a joint commission between the two countries to ensure constructive bilateral cooperation.

Turkmenistan Vice President Visits; Accords Signed

Views Bilateral Relations

*NC2405110592 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 May 92 p 15*

["Exclusive" interview with Turkmenistan First Vice President Engineer Atachariyev by an unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place, date not given]

[Text] [RESALAT] How do you view the Central Asian summit session to be convened shortly, and how do you appraise the roles of Iran and Turkmenistan?
[Atachariyev] The recent political developments in the former Soviet Union were a historical point in the lives of all the Muslim-inhabited republics and the people of Turkmenistan. As a result of these political developments and following their declaration of independence, we realized who our true friends are. Therefore, we are trying to direct our attention, first of all, toward Iran, because it has an important role. Iran, in our opinion, plays an important part in consolidating the ties among the governments of the Muslim republics.

Following the above-mentioned developments, these nations wrought changes in their economies and industries. In Turkmenistan and all the Central Asian republics, efforts are being made to develop friendly relations after a 70-year lapse.

[RESALAT] What are the most important agreements reached between Iran and Turkmenistan?
[Atachariyev] The agreements exceed millions of dollars and some of them are as follows:

1. Constructing the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tejan (Tedzhen) railroad, which will run 130 km inside Turkmenistan and 170 km in Iran. Both governments will be responsible for constructing that part of the railroad that falls within their territory. These railroad lines will revive the silk route, and time is needed to fully comprehend its importance. With the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tejan railroad, Europe and the PRC will be linked.
2. The Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled and the Republic of Turkmenistan have signed some excellent agreements that envision an exchange of goods worth millions of dollars.
3. Setting up gas pipelines in Iran to transport gas from Turkmenistan to Turkey.

[RESALAT, interrupting] From the talks, it was apparent that Turkey is seeking an alternative route for transporting its gas. Has there been any agreement with Turkey in this regard?
[Atachariyev] During the talks with the Turkish prime minister some days ago, it was agreed that the gas would be transported through Iran.
4. The fourth agreement was about exploring and drilling for oil and gas.
5. Setting up a joint factory for manufacturing shortening.
6. Constructing a dam on border rivers such as the Atrak and Tejan. (one dam and one water reservoir will be at Harirud, and a dam will be constructed at Atrak.

[RESALAT] What were the most important agreements reached in the recent talks between Prime Minister Demirel and Turkmen officials?
[Atachariyev] Turkey promised to send 2,000 trained experts to Turkmenistan. A Turkish television channel was initiated, and agreements were reached about transporting gas.

[RESALAT] Which are more important, the agreements signed with Iran or the ones with Turkey?
[Atachariyev] We do not want to create any differences, and we do not favor such a policy. For the Republic of Turkmenistan, no other country can take Iran's place. In our opinion, Iran and Turkmenistan are like hearts that join the governments of Central Asia with the European and Arab countries.

[RESALAT] Could you tell us, in brief, about Turkmenistan's economic potential?
[Atachariyev] Turkmenistan has a population of 4 million, an area of 488 square km [figure as published], and 10 million head of cattle. In Turkmenistan the area of arable land is 13 million hectares, but due to a water shortage, only 1.4 million hectares are cultivable.

The largest and best-equipped port on the Caspian Sea is in Turkmenistan, as is one of the world's largest canals (at Kara Kum), which brings water from the Oxus River and distributes it to the deserts.

Turkmenistan also has immense economic potential. Gas reserves alone amount to 13 trillion cubic feet, and our annual production of cotton seeds is 1.5 million tons, while ginned cotton is 450,000 tons. We are ready to sell 20,000 tons of ginned cotton to the Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled, which will resell it in the next [Iranian] year on the international market at the best price. In Caspian Sea fishing, the canning industry, and in producing fish meal, there is ample scope for cooperation between both countries.

[RESALAT] Western mass media have disseminated reports regarding U.S. efforts to infiltrate the Central Asian and Caucasian countries. How do you assess the fields in which the United States is striving to gain some influence in Turkmenistan, and what are Ashkhabad's views about the subject?
[Atachariyev] At present there is no country or force in the world that can come between Iran and Turkmenistan, which is also the opinion of the leaders and people of both countries. There are countries that are making serious attempts to drive a wedge between both countries.

We will not let the United States or other groups conduct such provocations, which was very clear in opening the base [not further specified]. How could Iran and Turkmenistan, which warmly embrace each other, do any such thing!

[RESALAT] What has been the effect of the communist economy centered in the former Soviet Union on the Republic of Turkmenistan?
[Atachariyev] The result of the communist economy was that Turkmenistan's raw materials were exported and pillaged. I should clarify that there was no communist economy in principle, only a communist ideology. There was a planned economy in the former Soviet Union, which robbed the individual of incentive, destroyed his character, and finally suffocated him. It was just as if a person was blinded and then led by the hand.

[RESALAT] How interested do you think the people of Turkmenistan are in returning to Islamic values?
[Atachariyev] The people of Turkmenistan never ever relinquished their true culture and have always preserved it, which is what has been a stabilizing factor for them. Certain beliefs such as respect for elders, respect for parents, and consuming only what is lawful are ingrained in the culture of the Turkmen people. The president of Turkmenistan consults the elders of the provinces annually and takes action after these consultations.

[RESALAT] What are the possibilities for tourism in Turkmenistan?
[Atachariyev] Package tours have been arranged from the Province of Khorasan. There are numerous historical sites in Turkmenistan, such as the city of Marv (the capital of the Seljuq dynasty) and (Organj) the capital of Khwarazm.

[RESALAT] In view of the latent talents and existing potential in Turkmenistan, what role can Iran play in the economic expansion of that country?
[Atachariyev] Turkmenistan has large quantities of oil, gas and cotton, and there is a need for 100 weaving factories and establishing petrochemical units for processing 1 million tons of polyethylene. (At present only one unit with a capacity of 200 thousand tons of polyethylene is under construction) Iran has immense experience in the economic field, and we should utilize this experience in the near future.

Loan To Turkmenistan Finalized

LD0505122592 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Visiting Turkmenistan Vice-President Atta Charyyev and governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli here Monday finalized granting a 50-million-dollar credit to the republic. Iran's export promotion bank is the creditor.

Charyyev, who arrived here Saturday after a brief stay in the Khorasan province capital of Mashhad, also discussed expansion of bilateral economic and banking cooperation.

On the basis of agreements reached on Iranian investments in the republic, the Turkmen Government is to provide the necessary guarantees for the Iranian investments.

Draft Aviation Agreement Signed

LD2705190492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] At the conclusion of the visit of Mr. Ilyas Berdiyev—head of the Republic of Turkmenistan's Civil Aviation and the managing director of that country's National State Airlines—to our country, a draft aviation agreement was signed between both countries.

Cooperation in technical and training fields, establishing regular flights between both countries, establishing holiday and pilgrimage tours, and both countries' cooperation in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association were among the issues included in the agreement.

Azerbaijani Prime Minister, Envoy Hold Talks

NC2805125492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1530 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasanov held talks with Iran's ambassador in Baku, 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian. Gasanov praised Iran's effort to peacefully settle the Karabakh problem, saying: If the Armenian forces withdraw to their former positions, Azerbaijan will guarantee the construction of (?a road) to facilitate transportation between it and Armenia.

Gasanov also stated that Azerbaijan is prepared to implement the provisions of the agreement that was reached in Tehran some time ago.

Golpayegani on Karabakh Clashes

LD2505180292 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Qom, May 25, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani on Monday advised the belligerent republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia to show self-restraint and try to solve their disputes in a peaceful manner.

In a statement issued in this holy city, the grand ayatollah described Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes as "bitter and unpleasant" incidents and expressed regret over their spread.

He said the attack on Azerbaijan by Armenia will only benefit those who are afraid of Islamic systems of government coming to power in the region and who are scheming to bring the region under their cultural, political and economic domination.

Elsewhere in his statement, the grand ayatollah made it clear that "the Muslim people of Iran, because of their long-standing good relationship with Armenians, did not expect Armenia to attack and massacre their Azeri brethren under unacceptable pretexts."

Food, Medicine Sent to Baku

LD2705182592 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tabriz (East Azarbaijan Prov.), May 27, IRNA—A 200 ton consignment of foodstuffs and medicines was sent to Baku, capital of the Azerbaijan Republic today from this northwestern provincial capital.

A local Red Cresent Society (RCS) official said that last year a total of 350 tons of foodstuffs, clothing and other basic items were sent to Azarbaijan and the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan by the RCS.

In addition, 1,200 tons of potatoes were sent to Nakhichevan.

He also mentioned a donation of 1,150 million rials of foodstuffs and other basic items for Iraqi refugees provided by the East Azarbaijan Red Cresent Society.

Va'ezi, Greek Counterpart View Bilateral Relations

LD2705183392 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Athens, May 27, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi Wednesday met his Greek counterpart Yeoryios Papastamkos and discussed regional and international issues and developments.

The two officials focused their talks on the situation in the Balkans, particularly former Yugoslavia, developments in the Middle East, European Community-Iranian ties, Greek-Turkish relations, the Cyprus problem and bilateral relations.

Speaking to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) after the meeting, Papastamkos described Greek-Iranian ties as "very good."

Pointing to the recent trip of Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis to Tehran, he said relations were expanding both in the economic and political sectors. "The ground is already prepared for further expansion of bilateral political and economic ties," the Greek official told IRNA.

Greece is keen in playing a mediating role to expand Iran's ties with the European Community. Athens has proposed the holding of talks on the undersecretary level between Iran and the EC, an Iranian diplomatic source told IRNA. EC considers Iran a very important country and a factor of stabilisation in the region, Greek diplomats say.

The two sides exchanged views on EC policies in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Serbia and on the Macedonian problem. Iran has assured Greece that it will not recognize the independence of Skopje until a final EC decision on the issue. Greece is locked in a dispute with Skopje over the name of "Republic of Macedonia."

Va'ezi, who arrived in Athens Monday, also met the Vice-President of the Greek Parliament, Nikos Katsaros, and former Foreign Minister Antonis Samras Wednesday. He is expected to meet Prime Minister Mitsotakis and main opposition leader Andreas Papandreou Thursday.

Va'ezi told IRNA that the purpose of his 3-day official visit "is to improve bilateral ties and exchange views on regional and international issues." He said that the two sides had agreed to assign representatives to sort out some outstanding financial problems. "Since last year relations are improving in both economic and political sectors. We have close contacts with Greece," Va'ezi told IRNA.

Envoy to Paris Cited on Sarhadi Extradition

LD2805110692 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Paris, May 28, IRNA—The French judiciary should speed up investigations into the case of the employee of the Iranian Embassy in Berne, extradited to France last Monday, said Iranian Ambassador to Paris 'Ali Ahani here Thursday morning.

Zia Sarhadi was arrested by the Swiss police last December on the accusations of involvement in the assassination last August of the last prime minister of the deposed Shah, Shapur Bakhtiar, in his Paris suburb home.

The Iranian diplomat told IRNA that available evidences speak of Sarhadi's innocence and expressed hope that the evidence will convince the French judge in charge of the case.

Ahani reiterated that Sarhadi was in Iran till September 2 and added that all the supporting documents have been forwarded to the French and Swiss judiciary officials.

According to Ahani, innocence of the Iranian staff of the embassy is unquestionable. He said Berne extradited Sarhadi to France merely in compliance with the 'European convention on extradition' with no proof of his involvement in the assassination.

"The speedy review of the case by French judge and coming to light of Sarhadi's innocence could help stop the propaganda ballyhoo launched by those opposing expansion of Tehran-Paris relations," Ahani said.

As for Iran's insistence to prevent extradition of Sarhadi by the Swiss, Ahani said the Islamic Republic, while being sure of his innocence, was not against his being questioned by the Swiss judge in Berne. Review of his case in Switzerland would prevent prolongation of the judicial procedure and would also thwart attempts of those who are working to mar Tehran-Berne relations.

Ahani added Tehran would do her best to "prove Sarhadi's innocence and defend him and will follow up the issue seriously."

Daily Criticizes France for Accepting MKO Member

LD2405175292 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Sunday criticized France for accepting a member of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who were expelled from Sweden on charges of taking part in the attack on the Iranian Embassy in Stockholm last month.

The daily's editorial referred to reaction of European countries to the pre-planned attacks on Iranian Embassies and their poor performance saying that there are enough evidences to doubt their sincerity.

Criticizing the dual attitude of Western governments to the diplomatic rights and safety of embassies, it said that whenever the embassies of the Third World countries are attacked in the West, the concerned government adopts a very lenient policy towards the terrorists and justifies it under the guise of respect for individual human rights.

"But as soon as the slightest damage is inflicted on their embassies or diplomats in the Third World countries, they claim the concerned country is in the grips of total chaos."

"It is on the basis of such a lopsided and arrogant view of the diplomatic immunity that France grants immunity to a terrorist who has already been condemned in a country like Sweden." The French Government apparently expects it would have no impacts on Tehran- Paris relations.

The French Government and press would have "risen hell" if Iran had granted asylum to a member of a terrorist group such as the "direct action" who had engaged in subversive activity against the French interests in a third country and had been expelled by that country.

The least accusation would be that Iran protects terrorists. "We would like now to pose them the question: Who is protecting the terrorists?"

Daily Cited on Australian 'Attitude' Toward MKO

LD2505110592 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—A morning daily Monday stressed that the Australian Government, in order to prove its goodwill towards Iran, should deal firmly with a group of 13 members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) who attacked Iran's embassy in Canberra last month.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' noted that there are crucial moments in relations between nations which should be fully apprehended, not only to prevent any possible harm on relations but to strengthen them.

Although the Australian Government has decided to compensate for the damage on the embassy compound and to put the assailants on trial, so far there has been no firm action.

"Compensating the damage is only a minor part of the matter. What is most important, and could prove Australia's goodwill, is the attitude of its judiciary towards the terrorists."

In a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries some two weeks ago, the Australian minister pledged that Canberra would not allow similar incidents in the future and will soon put on trial and punish those arrested.

"If the Australian Government seeks to show its goodwill to the Iranian nation, it should prove it in action," the daily concluded.

Labor Cooperation To Be Established With Libya

LD2405180692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Mr Kamali, employment and social affairs minister, stated during an interview on his return from Tripoli: On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya, both countries are to cooperate in establishing technical, vocational, and labor training centers. He added: Libya expressed its interest in having our country's skilled and specialized labor force work in Libya.

Kyrgyz Officials, Foreign Ministry Envoy Meet

LD2905183992 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 29, IRNA—High-ranking Kyrgyz officials called for expansion of Tehran-Bishkek relations, particularly in the economic field Friday.

They made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General in charge of Central Asian-Transcaucasia Affairs, Morteza Bank, who arrived in Bishkek Thursday night.

The Iranian official, who is on a tour of six newly-independent republics, held separate talks with Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Erkibayev, as well as that country's acting foreign minister and the minister of economy and commerce.

Expressing sympathy for the recent earthquake which shook the republic, Bank voiced Tehran's readiness to provide Bishkek with further relief supplies on a humanitarian basis.

Bank, in a separate meeting with the Kyrgyz acting foreign minister, introduced Morteza Motevaselani as the head of the Iranian mission in Bishkek.

In his talks with the Kyrgyz minister of economy and commerce, Bank discussed Tehran-Bishkek political and economic ties and bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Envoy Meets Islamic Unity Party Leaders in Kabul

LD2705204292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] After a nine-day stay in Afghanistan and holding talks with interim government officials and some group and party leaders, Mir Mahmud Musavi—the Islamic Republic of Iran special representative—left Kabul this afternoon. He was seen off by a number of Afghan Foreign Ministry officials.

Before his departure, in an interview with a Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul—while describing the outcome of his talks with Afghan interim government officials and Mojahedin leaders as positive—he said: Methods of future political and economic cooperation were discussed during the trip. That was welcomed by the interim government officials.

Referring to the existing problems in Afghanistan, he said that reviewing political solutions to resolve the existing disputes and discussing ways of transferring power were among topics he discussed with Afghan Mojahedin leaders.

Referring to his meetings with Islamic Unity Party leaders, he said: In our talks with Mazari—the Islamic Unity Party secretary general—the current situation in Afghanistan and the method of that party's participation in the interim government were discussed.

He said: While stressing the importance of preserving unity in Afghanistan, the Unity Party officials called for fulfilling the wishes of that party and the active participation of its leaders in the interim government.

Hizballah Official Cited on Interim Council Talks

LD2905153192 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—An official of the Afghan Hizballah Movement Mohammad Hasan Ja'fari today expressed optimism over the talks held between Golboddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e Eslami and the defence minister of the ruling Interim Council in Kabul, Ahmad Shah Masud.

In a telephone interview with IRNA, he said it is hoped that these talks would strengthen the confidence of Afghan people in the council.

Ja'fari stressed that the Ja'fari School of Jurisprudence, which claims some 30 percent adherents in Afghanistan, should be recognized officially by the Interim Council.

Speaking on behalf of the Afghan Hizballah, Ja'fari condemned the savage attacks of the terrorist state of Israel on southern Lebanon and called for earnest efforts from the United Nations to halt the Zionist aggression on defenceless people.

Letter of Understanding Signed With Bahrain

LD2805223292 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—Iran and Bahrain inked a letter of understanding for expansion of economic and trade cooperation, Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji said here today.

Back from a four-day visit to Bahrain he said the letter also included the use of the ports of the two countries for export and transit of their respective goods.

Referring to the good prospects of bilateral cooperation he said the volume of Iranian exports to Bahrain will rise in the future.

The southern Iranian province of Fars is to hold an exclusive exhibition in Bahrain in this regard.

Cultural Cooperation Discussed With Bulgaria

LD2905184792 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador in Bulgaria Homayun Amir-Khalili enlightened the managing director of Bulgarian Television the qualitative and quantitative improvement of Iranian television programmes after revolution in a meeting in Sofia last night [sentence as published]. Amir-Khalili called for the exchange of television programmes and Persian films.

Praising the impact of the Iranian revolution on Bulgarians, the managing director said despite the geographical distance between the two countries, Bulgarians understand the role of the Islamic revolution in the collapse of communism.

The Bulgarian official welcomed mutual cooperation in cultural and artistic areas.

'Record' 97 Percent Rise in Non-Oil Exports Cited

LD2405225292 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Zahedan (Sistan-Baluchestan), May 24, IRNA—A record 97 percent rise in non-oil exports last calendar year (ended March 20) fetched the country $2.5 billion, head of the exports promotion center Mostafa Hashemi-Taba said here today.

He said the figure accounted for some 15 percent of the total foreign exchange earnings of the country for the year.

Hashemi-Taba said hand-woven carpets worth $1 billion and pistachio worth $300 million ranked first and second respectively on the export list.

In order to promote Iranian goods, said the trade official, some 30 local and expert exhibitions were held last year. This year, he added, there are plans to hold a total 58 exhibitions of Iranian goods both at home and abroad.

Foreign Capital Cited in Qeshm Island Development

LD1005190992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Mr Shams-Ardakani—head of the Qeshm free trade zone—announced how foreign capital will be used in constructing an industrial and development project on Qeshm Island. He said: Work on a complex for iron production—the primary agreement for which has been signed with the Japanese Kobe Steel company—will begin this fall with a capital investment of $250 million.

Referring to talks with the German Siemens Company about starting the Qeshm power plant, he said: Talks about this project have reached the final phase.

Asked about other development projects, Mr. Shams-Ardakani said: By the end of Khordad this year [21 June 1992], the building work of Qehsm Island's sports and cultural complex will be completed. The cost of completing this project will be over 1.25 billion rials, and the complex is unique among the neighboring provinces.

He added: In accordance with the policy of implementing cultural projects in the deprived regions of the country, this year 800 million rials is being allocated to promote cultural activities on Qeshm Island.

Chemical Project Agreement Signed With China

LD2605035392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Pars Sodium Carbonate company—affiliated with the investment company of the Social Security Organization—and the National Chinese Industries signed an agreement to build a 200,000-tonne sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate production complex in Khuzestan. The project will be completed in four years and will cost over 90 billion rials.

Expanding Joint Investments With Germany Cited

LD2705180692 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Bonn, May 27, IRNA—In a meeting with Iranian minister of industry, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, German vice-chancellor and minister of economics, Juergen Moellemann, hailed the Iranian decision to allow foreign investments as an "important" factor for expansion of Irano-German joint investments.

In the meeting which took place last night, Moellemann stressed the need for the exchange of information through various means including holding of joint economic seminars.

The two also reviewed bilateral economic relations with Moellemann voicing Bonn's readiness for industrial cooperation through joint investments.

He said that as a major importer of Iranian non-oil exports, the German export insurance company 'Hermes' had provided a credit of five billion German marks [DM] for insuring Iranian exports in 1991, the highest transaction of its kind.

The German official said that in view of regional developments over the past two years, the ground has fully been paved for Tehran-Bonn joint cooperation with the newly independent Asian republics.

Later at a dinner banquet arranged in Ne'matzedeh's honour, the German officials and the Iranian enumerated Germany's direct investment in Iran at about DM200 million and Iran's at about DM580 million.

Imports From Germany Increase 61.03 Percent

LD2904084992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] According to the statistics released by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry about trade between Iran and Germany, Iran's imports from Germany in 1991 amounted to 6.728 billion German marks [DM], showing a 61.03 percent increase compared with the previous year.

In 1991, Iran exported DM1.489 billion worth of commodities to Germany, showing a 16 percent increase compared with the previous year.

On the basis of this report, the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes the main importer of German commodities in Asia, after Japan and Turkey. Germany, too, occupies the most important position in terms of importing Iranian nonoil goods.

Dam Agreement Signed With Foreign Consortium

LD3004203292 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Iran on Thursday signed a contract with a consortium of German, Brazilian, Swiss and Austrian companies for construction of a dam and its 2,000 megawatt power station in Khuzestan Province.

The contract, worth 1.25 billion dollars in foreign exchange and rials 150 billion in Iranian currency, covers the construction of a double curvature concrete dam which is 200 meters high over the River Karun, 25 kms southeast of Izeh in the southern province of Khuzestan.

The capacity of the power station to be set up besides the dam can be raised from 2,000 to 3,000 megawatts.

The foreign exchange needed for the project will be provided by financial institutions of the countries making up the consortium.

Daily Cited on 'Hurdles' to Joint Investment

LD2405180292 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Sunday said that the main hurdles on the way to joint investment in Iran are the three-ply exchange rates and the frequent change of regulations.

It said the policy of trying to attract foreign investment into Iran is "the best way of dealing with the country's economic woes."

"Yet the call for joint investment has not been as successful as expected and despite all its eye-opening advantages Iran remains a relatively mysterious investment spot."

"The prospective foreign investor who wants to make investment in Iran does not know which of the country's three widely different exchange rates—referred to as official, floating or competitive—would be used to convert his money either coming in as investment or going out as profit."

"The exchange rate is a problem that must be resolved before Iran can make any progress in attracting foreign investment."

As for the problem of frequent change of regulations with no prior warning or announcement by concerned government agencies, the daily's editorial said, "not before the government has balanced and integrated economic laws on book, can it be hopeful about attracting investment."

Besharati Cited on Fresh Water Pipeline to Qatar

LD0305195592 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 3 May 92

[TEXT] Doha, May 3, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today expressed hope that the fresh water pipeline from Iran to Qatar would be completed in the near future.

He made the remark in a meeting with Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al Thani.

Oil-rich Qatar lacks fresh water sources and the joint project across the Persian Gulf is expected to ease the desert emirate's drinking water problems.

Besharati also thanked Qatar for recongnizing the interim ruling council in Afghanistan, and said the situation in Kabul is gradually moving towards total stability.

On Tehran's stance concerning the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union, Besharati said Iran is not seeking any particular goal in its mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, except for maintaining a ceasefire and peace in the Caucasus.

"The positive outcome of Iran's humanitarian efforts warrants the Islamic republic to continue its mission until the establishment of a permanent tranquility in that region," he added.

Turning to Iran's viewpoints towards the UN Security Council's approvals on Iraq, he said Iran respects the charter and approvals of the United Nations.

Shaykh Hamad in reply called for the expansion of Tehran-Doha relations, and hoped that mutual ties between the two countries would be a model for all countries particularly those of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

He said there is no limit to the expansion of bilateral ties, and that Qatar is ready for multilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and good neighbourhood.

Besharati is in Qatar to make preparations for the visit to Doha of First Vice President Hasan Habibi on Tuesday. Customs issues, social and labour affairs, medical education and exchange of news between the news agencies of the two countries are expected to be raised during Habibi's visit.

In a separate meeting today Besharati and his Qatari counterpart, Ahmad Abdullah al-Mahmud, agreed to set up joint sub-commissions to study issues of common interest and to prepare a draft for mutual cooperation.

Foreign ministry officials of the two countries will meet shortly to follow up the issues.

Commentary Views U.S.-Israeli Arms Issues

LD2405170492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 24 May 92

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] The issue of the sale of U.S. arms technology to other countries as well as the sale of some proscribed arms to countries like China, South Africa, and Chile are among topics that every now and then the Western press ascribes to the Zionist regime. Of course, despite the tension that was whipped up between the United States and the Zionist regime over the $10 billion loan, in recent months White House officials displayed their lack of animosity toward the Zionist regime many times. Nevertheless, some of those officials stated that the denials of the Israeli authorities regarding the nonsale of U.S. weapons represent only one side of the story and that the other side must become clear through more research and investigation.

But it is obvious that the Israeli Zionist regime is an important facet of U.S. global strategy, and the U.S. position regarding the Zionist government—considering the general and regional conditions—enjoys a wider viewpoint, since that regime plays an important role in safeguarding U.S. interests in various areas of the world, including Latin America, South Africa, and so on. Thus, it does not come under regional disarmament policies. In fact, this is because the secondary propaganda din ostensibly downgrades the issue of the likely nuclear potential of the Zionist regime and the need for its restriction or destruction. This is when there exist many reports—some of which are exaggerated—regarding the extent of the regime's nuclear capabilities.

For example, a Jewish American journalist wrote in his book entitled Israel, America, and the Bomb: On Israeli nuclear capabilities there are reliable reports. In 1973, Kissinger officially announced that Israel had three nuclear warheads. In 1976 the Americans gave the number as 10, but in 1981 one of the scientists from the Israeli nuclear center revealed that Israel made around 100 nuclear bombs since then. Thus, the number of Israel's current nuclear warheads is much more than that and includes more than 10 nuclear [word indistinct] and mines used in ground warfare.

Notwithstanding the motives behind the revelation of such information—which may include instilling fear in Arab regimes to gain more concessions for the Zionist regime—the issue of nuclear arms in the Middle East is a matter that must be considered within a global framework; these are arms that have, from a technological viewpoint, mainly originated from the West, especially America, and proliferated in molding U.S. policies. Nevertheless, it is said that differences, albeit limited, have occurred between that country's and the Zionist regimes's regional policies. According to U.S. viewpoints, strategic cooperation with that regime should not contradict U.S. ability to expand the level of relations and increase cooperation with friendly Arab states. Thus, while many of the joint maneuvers with the Zionists are kept away from the attention of the mass media, reports relating to some maneuvers jointly carried out with Arab forces are, on the contrary, widely publicized. This shows that by revealing the aspects of cooperation and agreement with friendly Arab forces and suppressing its cooperation with the Zionist regime or portraying it as unimportant, America is paying more attention to regional considerations.

Of course in the real world, the United States allocated 20 percent of its foreign aid to the Zionist regime and concluded many secret military operation agreements with that regime on the basis of the 1981 agreement. This is a position that cannot be denied or concealed under any circumstances, and further persistence in this unveils other behind-the-scenes issues.

Editorial on U.S., Turkish Role in 'Baku Coup'

NC2805153192 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 May 92 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Beyond the Baku Coup"]

[Text] The swift events in Azerbaijan, notably in Baku, overshadowed the bloody incidents in Karabakh.

Supporters of a political group known as the "Azerbaijan Popular Front" took control of the parliament and the presidential palace in a bloodless coup in Baku on Friday night and removed Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov.

There are still no accurate reports about the role of the Army in this incident. A Popular Front's Supreme Council member, who was involved in the coup, told Baku television: "The commander of the Russian contingent in Baku officially promised not to interfere in Azerbaijan's domestic affairs."

The fact that Moscow described overthrowing the government as a domestic issue is a political gesture that demonstrates their support for the coupists and for those who toppled Mutalibov, something Yeltsin was waiting for since the three-day communist coup in Moscow.

In that coup, Yeltsin acted against the Army coupists and the leadership cadre. Mutalibov, on the other hand, supported it. Even though he recanted his remarks later, Moscow's tacit support for the anti-Mutalibov coupists shows that Moscow believes that his initial remarks represented his true opinion.

Facts indicate that the Russian Army's role in the Friday night coup in Baku was more than remaining silent; there was something of a tacit and practical support involved. The unexpected changes in the newly established Central Asian republics may become the status quo, and power may even be shifted from one group to another in the rivalries among the various factions. What makes the Baku coup different from similar changes in other republics is the remarks by Panah Hoseynzadeh, head of the Executive Committee of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, who clarified the U.S. and Turkish role, saying: "The movement to overthrow the government in Baku occurred after coordinating with the American and Turkish ambassadors to Azerbaijan."

This shows that the faction that has come to power in Baku does not intend to hide its relations with foreigners. In fact, they may even be trying to emphasize the U.S. and Turkish role in the coup in an effort to strengthen its position.

The coup was actually a reply to the Azerbaijani parliament's decision Thursday to reelect Mutalibov. This time, however, the method used by the opposition does not leave any room for discussion.

If all the incidents leading to the Popular Front's coup are reviewed, the coordination and concordance of Washington and Moscow can be seen further. Thus, in engineering and executing the Baku coup, the issue transcends what was said by the commander of the Red Army in Baku and transcends being a "domestic issue" and cannot be referred to as merely a domestic matter.

The Azerbaijani people may still not be able to understand how the Baku incidents can be a domestic issue when the American and Turkish embassies were so deeply involved. The correct interpretation of these events is that Turkey and America have become so audacious that they have interfered in the domestic affairs of a newly established republic.

The Azerbaijani people have a right to be disgusted about the U.S. and Turkish role in the "Baku coup." This is the first overt and declared intervention by America and Turkey in the lives of a people who have been breathing the air of independence and freedom for only a few days now.

Whatever America's intentions are, Turkey's role was to be used as a tool in fulfilling Washington's objectives in Central Asia. By exploiting Turkey, Washington may be able to do some things in the area that it would not be able to do otherwise.

The Ankara rulers know that their attempts to preserve a secular system, their hostility toward religions, and their efforts to maintain their Latin script are not popular even among the zealous Turkish people. They know that their efforts to present this distorted way of life as a "pattern" for the Central Asian republics are doomed to fail.

The "Baku coup" was a blow to U.S. and Turkish prestige and shows that if they think that conditions are favorable, they can be enticed to interfere in Azerbaijani domestic affairs, going so far as hatching a coup if the opportunity exists.

It is not clear how the people of Azerbaijan will react to the coupists. It is clear that the newly liberated people of Azerbaijan, who have not yet completely rid themselves of Russian domination, will never want to fall into the trap of another superpower, even if it wants to throw them into the abyss by handing them the rotten rope of Turkey.

Commentary on U.S.-Turkish Role in Central Asia

NC2805162692 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 May 92 p 13

[A. Salah commentary: "Turkey in the Service of the United States and Israel"]

[Text] Turkey's role in the Central Asian republics and the newly independent Muslim countries has drawn the attention of many international observers, especially since remarks by Richard Armitage, U.S. official in charge of the affairs of the young republics, revealed the extensive cooperation and the unified U.S.-Israeli-Turkish mission in the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union for confronting the spread of revolutionary Islam.

In addition, to justify their role, Turkish officials and leaders made an apology that was worse than a confession that they have no intention of pursuing the policy of pan-Turanism or confronting fundamentalist Islam, that they were encouraged by the West to become involved in this issue, and that the West pushed Turkey into doing all this in a bid to prevent the influence of Iran and the revival of Islamic fundamentalism after the death of communism in the Islamic republics.

It has been more than two years since the CIA prepared its scenario for the future of the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus. The role of the secular Turkish regime was determined then. Turkish statesmen say that Turkey was caught in the web of this CIA plan contrary to its true feelings.

In a recent speech to the CSCE, Mesut Yilmaz, who was Turkey's foreign minister for years and acting prime minister for a few months last year, blatantly said: "It is true that Turkey has undertaken a major role in preventing the infiltration of Islam in Central Asia and the Caucasus. But Europe and the West should not forget that Turkey's political victory over Iran and over revolutionary Islamic processes can be achieved only through extensive Western support for Turkey."

Turkish statesmen are waiting for multifaceted Western support and have found the opportunity to solve domestic problems and to suppress the Kurds at the same time. While the West is silently watching, the Kurds are being massacred.

Under such circumstances, we see why the Western world, except for Germany, has been so quiet about the massacre of the Kurds. In return for this silence, Turkey can play its role in the Central Asian republics and confront Islam. Of course, the Turkish regime has strengthened nationalistic sentiments in Central Asia and the Caucasus and has turned them into a preliminary dam in confronting revolutionary Islamic ideas.

Nationalist feelings have been especially strengthened in Azerbaijan. Turkey is playing its part on the favorable grounds created during the 70-year communist domination and the propagation of atheism and antireligious ideas.

The Turkish regime, with the cooperation of pro-Western elements and so-called intellectuals in Azerbaijan, is imposing secularism and pan-Turanism as a new political and social pattern on these republics and portrays Turkey as the only supporter of the Muslims in the Caucasus. Recent incidents in Karabakh and Nakhichevan, however, show that Turkey has not supported the Muslims and that it is merely implementing a policy determined by the West.

The Muslims of Azerbaijan saw how easily those who claimed that they would send forces to Karabakh to stand next to the Azerbaijanis ignored the massacre of the Muslims in Karabakh and undermined Iran's goodwill mission in implementing a cease-fire and in ending the bloodshed.

The Azerbaijani Muslims—who went through months of heavy nationalist Turkish Government propaganda and received so many promises from Turkey about military assistance in the unequal war with the Armenian forces—saw how, at the sensitive moment of the massacre of the Muslims in Karabakh, the Turkish Government did not take one step to help. In fact, it closed its eyes so that it could better perform the role imposed on it by the West.

The Azerbaijanis understood the meaning of Turkey's promises during the recent incidents in Karabakh. They realized that Turkey is a toy in the hands of Western powers and that even though the West is trying to portray it as a regional power, all Turkey can do is allow the West the power of maneuverability, which is used only within the framework of confronting revolutionary Islam.

During his visit to the Central Asian republics last week, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel tried to show the West that Turkey is doing its best to carry out its assigned role, which is why he took Alp Arsalan Turkes, the most extremist Turkish pan-Turanist, with him.

Despite the sinister U.S.-Israeli-Turkish triangle in the Central Asian republics and this triangle's role in the Caucasus incidents, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate any political deceit and will continue its active role to help solve the Karabakh crisis. Iran will do this on the basis of its humanitarian duty and its religious beliefs. Iran also warns the countries that exploit the pure sentiments of the Muslims of the Central Asian republics and resort to demagogic means to implement the West's scenario in the region behind the mask of pan-Turanism not to use the fate of Muslims as a commodity in their political transactions.

Editorial on ICJ Verdict on U.S. Assets Seizure

NC2305203492 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 May 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Responsibility of the International Court of Justice at The Hague"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The verdict of the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at the Hague that the United States committed a breach of contract when it seized Iran's nonmilitary assets, on which a report was published yesterday, not only provides an example of U.S. aggression against the rights of the Iranian nation but also places an immense responsibility on the international community as well as the ICJ.

In the years prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution, the U.S. Government was engaged in a massive plundering spree in Iran, and by abusing the weakness and servility of the ruling regime, it became the self-styled guardian and custodian of the country. When the flames of the fury of the Muslim Iranian nation rose and the tyrannical monarchical regime was toppled, it was natural that U.S. domination would be eliminated from the country.

This did not only mean that the hands of the United States had been cut off from Iran but it was in fact a defeat of the aggressive and expansionist policies of the world-devouring United States, which his eminence the imam, the late leader of the Islamic revolution, labeled the "arch-Satan." On receiving such a blow, the United States sought to take revenge on the Iranian nation, and using the occupation of its embassy in Tehran as a pretext, it took steps to block Iranian assets in the United States. The occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was a natural and indisputable right of the Iranian nation since the U.S. Government transformed its embassy in Tehran into a den of espionage. From there it hatched schemes and programs to support the counterrevolutionaries and topple the Iranian Government. It also provided sanctuary to the shah, who was wanted by the nation for arrest and trial as a traitor.

These were acts of treachery by the U.S. Administration against the Iranian nation and were to be expected. Its lust for plunder, however, resulted in its continued plotting against the Iranian nation and the plundering of the nation's assets in the United States.

The ICJ verdict condemning the United States for not reimbursing these assets is only based on the U.S. violation of the substance of the Algiers accord. In fact, the mere seizing of these assets was itself an unlawful act.

The other crime perpetrated by the United States, according to the ICJ verdict, is that it imposed certain regulations without any legal mandate allowing companies who were using Iranian assets to hold them in escrow, in case they had to liquidate them in lieu of claims against Iran. Thus they would be able to obtain permission to sell these assets after obtaining a license from the U.S. Treasury Department.

The history of this unlawful action dates back to the signing of the Algiers Accord, according to which the United States pledged to transfer all Iranian assets to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thus, even if the ICJ verdict is welcomed as a positive step, exposing the numerous acts of U.S. aggression further emphasizes the fact that the ICJ should consider it its duty to vindicate all of Iran's rights. By declaring its independent views, this tribunal can prove that it is not under the domination or influence of the United States and is a trustworthy institution.

Commentary: U.S. Legitimacy, Power Shriveling

NC2305152092 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
3 May 92 p 2

[Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri commentary: "Crises' Creator in Crisis Eddy"]

[Excerpts] The creator of crises is facing a crisis as the United States prepares to move into a new post-cold war era as an unrivaled power. [passage omitted]

Before the awesome disintegration of the USSR and East Bloc, despite all the West's efforts, the shortcomings of the communist system were kept hidden from the public. This is exactly the same situation that happened when the public's demands were expressed in the United States—a situation that revealed the vulnerability of the U.S. regime and the vulnerable points that the White House will be unable to hide from others from now on.

The force used by the U.S Government to crush the [Los Angeles] riots was much more than that used by China during the student unrest in "Tiananmen Square." Martial law and curfew are being declared in some states when, in all the years of the imposed war and... [ellipsis as published], such measures were not taken even for one night in Tehran or other Iranian cities. This decision was unfavorable for the U.S. officials but was the only alternative left. The surprising thing is seeing how a superpower that claims to head the world empire can crumble so easily. Many movements and ethnic, religious, racial, and other groups—each of which can create a new crisis in the country—have not yet expressed their oppositions overtly. Once they do, this will be a good testing ground for rival countries and will tip the balance of relations either toward cooperation with or hostility against the United States.

The bipolar system ended in an atmosphere that was favorable for the United States, but, as it enters a new era, it has had to face a situation in which its "legitimacy" and "power" have begun to lose their lustre.

Turkish Efforts To Unite Ethnic Turks Criticized

NC2905195392 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
13 May 92 p 12

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "The Islamic World; the Turkic World"]

[Excerpts] Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was recently the scene of a gathering of various ethnic Turkish nationalists. The supporters of pan-Turkism, who have been instilled with new life after the break up of the Soviet Union, have entered the political scene. The fact that ethnic groups with similar cultures and languages are striving to understand each other is essentially favorable. If this movement had risen from the needs of ethnic Turks who have been dispersed in various countries with different political boundaries because of special historic and geographic conditions, all ethnic Turks would support it. The true facts, however, are not very encouraging, and some unhealthy signs indicate that the groups have chauvinistic sentiments. Nothing much has been published about exactly what happened in Baku and what topics the Turkish nationalists discussed. It is difficult, therefore, to judge what went on. On the basis of similar meetings held in Turkey in the past, one can make some observations.

Ethnic Turks have lived in various countries with different historic and political backgrounds, and under the influence of different cultures, for at least a century. There is no doubt that the impact of this political division has been great on ethnic Turks. It has been so strong, in fact, that despite their linguistic similarities, ethnic Turks are finding it difficult to really understand each other. [passage omitted]

The region has witnessed various nationalities with varying cultural traditions throughout its history. The fact the Turkic race once enjoyed superiority is a completely different topic, one that lacks a convincing basis, in fact. It is hard to prove that the Turks were ever united under a common rule. On the contrary, it was the struggle for power among various Turkic societies that helped bring about certain changes, one of which is undoubtedly the existing geographic situation. On this basis and on the basis of historical facts, efforts to ignore the problems faced by the Turkic nations will be in vain. Pan-Turkism is a dream for those who benefit from inciting this idea. The losers in this game, however, will be the Muslim Turkic masses, because they are geopolitically linked with other races that will undoubtedly react to such ethnic enticements.

In addition, conditions in the world and in the region will not allow territorial dismemberment to the benefit of a specific race. For these reasons, such a process will be to the detriment of ethnic Turks throughout the world, and this is contrary to the expectations of those who gathered in Baku to discuss this issue. Another facet of the issue is being intentionally ignored; that the Turkic race is part of the Islamic world which is a real world that has nothing to do with racial, linguistic, cultural, or traditional differences. All races, irrespective of nationality and language, belong to this world. This world recognizes the existing geopolitical frameworks and, at the same time, calls for more effective political, commercial, and cultural cooperation among all the races in it. It has plans and programs that conform with the conditions of a world in which technological progress is wiping out racial characteristics. If the Turkic world wants to preserve its ethnic existence, it will have no other alternative but to find a way to do so within the framework of the Islamic world. Efforts to separate itself from this world threatens to lead to self-alienation and to absorption by the West's culture and civilization. A glance at the existing situation in Turkey, which is where ideas like this originate, shows that all its political and social efforts to be accepted by the EC are failing. The undeclared reason for this failure is that Turkey is a Muslim country. In their inclination toward pan-Turkism, the Turkic societies will achieve only what their motherland has achieved—marking time behind EC doors, waiting for permission to enter, a humiliating situation which is contrary to the national pride of all ethnic Turks.

Larijani Views 'Three Important Phenomena'

NC2304162292 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Apr 92 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter—Iran's International Position in 1371," by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani]

[Text] 1. In the year 1371 [21 March 1992 to 21 March 1993], Iran should be prepared to face three important phenomena: the dismemberment of the Russian Federation; the end of the Saddam regime in Iraq; and the downfall of the Kabul regime in Afghanistan. Since they are close to Iran—when these three events occur—they will impart new dimensions to current unstable conditions. Islamic Iran will emerge as the sole reliable axis for the stability and security of the region.

2. Interesting events are under way in our neighboring country, Turkey: Turkish politicians have reached the conclusion that the 40-year campaign against Islam is futile, and the failure of the communist Soviet Union is the best witness to this fact. On the other hand, if Turkish politicians become closer to Islam, they will enjoy a better reputation with their people, as Islam's rise in Turkey is dazzling.

This will make their acceptance among the Central Asian Republics easier. They face one problem: U.S. leaders have come to the conclusion that Islam should not have the opportunity to proliferate. If in any part of the world of Islam a spurious Islamic movement is allowed to emerge, the strong movement of pure Islam, which gains its inspiration from Iran, will speedily overcome it! This means that the Islamic revolution is unrivalled in the world of Islam!

Therefore, with the help of their elements in the Armed Forces and government organizations in Turkey, the Americans are trying to prevent all opportunities for compromise and flexibility toward Islam on the part of Turkish officials. Most of the hostilities and inappropriate actions against Iran originate from here. Without any doubt, this U.S. policy will ultimately be to Iran's benefit. The more the extent of their animosity against Islam becomes apparent, the greater it will help the Islamic ummah to make basic decisions quickly.

3. U.S. policy toward Iran and Islam is based on a new two-phase strategy: In the first phase there is a mild attitude toward Iran and an effort to get close to it, in tandem with a violent suppression of Islamic movements in Arab and Islamic countries, and in the second phase, following success in reining in Islamic movements, a more firm approach toward Iran will be taken.

In my opinion, this new strategy stems from some major fallacies: First, that Islamic movements can be suppressed or uprooted by means of coups or similar actions. Second, that the golden opportunity for the United States to gain world domination is this year or next. Third, that after the dismantling of the so-called bipolar system, the Third World will seek a new guardian, and only the United States can provide security and remedy the economic situation.

The real situation will emerge with the passage of time for the bullies who are so warped in their thinking that they only consider investing in the situation rather than the time factor!

4. The international scene is contemplating ways to legislate its new games. This is far removed from the utopian concept of a unipolar world and bodes well for Iran and every other country that has roots and wishes to remain independent.

In the year 1371, the formulation of its foreign policy will be more complicated for Iran than in the past or future, even though the horizons and arenas of action have expanded. In the past 50 years, world politics have become mechanized. Politicians have attempted to make all domestic matters economics-oriented and the people income-oriented so that all matters are predictable and easily maneuverable, while foreign policy matters have become power-oriented.

Thus in the political lexicon following World War II, there is no sign of terms such as friendship, nobility, truth-seeking, etc. Today, however, there are indications of the growth of a sort of political acumen in the world, an awakening that rejects the mechanization of politics and has shaken the political forms in the world today. Thus it transpires that the collapse of Marxism is a transregional phenomenon and is still continuing.

Commentary Views Government Role in Gulf Security

NC2405082892 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 May 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "From 'Boasting About Arabism' to 'Arabic Enthusiasm'"]

[Text] AL-KHALIJ of Sharjah carried an article in its Tuesday [5 May] issue entitled "Ink on Paper... Ink on Paper", in which it strongly protests Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati's remarks that the "Damascus Declaration"— or the pact that was signed by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] plus Syria and Egypt about ensuring Gulf security—is defunct. The newspaper stated that these remarks constitute intervention in the domestic affairs of Arab countries. The newspaper adds that it is the Persian Gulf littoral states that should reach agreements and adds: "The Damascus Declaration is an Arab issue only, and neither Besharati nor anyone else can interfere in it." After warning that "intervention in the domestic affairs of GCC member states will displease these countries and strain future Iranian-Arab relations," the AL-KHALIJ article concludes: "The Damascus Declaration is not ink on paper, unless from a technical aspect..., in which case all remarks are merely ‘ink on paper!’” [ellipsis as published]

Perhaps the AL-KHALIJ article does not need an answer, because it is obviously invalid. But since we consider it one of our Islamic duties to guide our neighbors and Muslim Arab brothers in the southern coast of the Persian Gulf, it is necessary to list a few points in order to elevate the knowledge of the author of the article "Ink on Paper..." and to draw the attention of our press colleagues on the other side of the Persian Gulf to these points:

1. First, we feel it necessary to clarify the topic of discussion, which is Persian Gulf security. The Persian Gulf does not have one coast. It has two. If the countries on the southern coast have the right to state their views about Gulf security and to decide to intervene, why should the country on the northern coast—which has a coastline much longer than all those of the southern Gulf countries combined and which has a population four times their total number—not have the right to state its view and to intervene? What characteristics does the Persian Gulf have that its security concerns only the countries on its southern coast and not the country on its northern shore?

Can security in this region be ensured by weak countries or by a country that is stronger than all of them put together? How can governments that supported Iraq throughout the eight-year imposed war on Iran—despite the fact that Iraq clearly showed that as one of their allies it threatened regional security—and proved that they are mentors of crises-makers speak about regional security?

During the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, were the GCC countries able to ensure security on their own? From now on, if Iraq again entertains thoughts of aggression and the United States gives the green light, can these countries ensure their security on their own?

Under such circumstances, how can the issue of regional security be brought up—and by weak countries at that—and how can Iran, which is the most powerful country in the region and has thousands of kilometers more coastline than the other littoral countries, not have the right to get involved in the security of this gulf? xt

2. On what pretext can Syria and Egypt interfere in Persian Gulf security? Can merely being an Arab grant one the right to interfere in regional security affairs? The AL-KHALIJ article was unattributed, so it is not known whether the author was a citizen of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] or of Washington or Cairo. But if he is a UAE citizen, he should answer this question: Is not the existence of a U.S. military base in Fujayrah, which is only a few steps away from Sharjah, intervention in Persian Gulf security affairs? According to which logic can you—who consider it the right of Egypt and Syria on the one hand and of the United States and European countries on the other to interfere in any way they please and to be present as they wish in the Persian Gulf—say that the Iranian Government as the largest Gulf littoral country does not have the right to interfere in regional security arrangements? In view of these points, how can the Iranian deputy foreign minister's remarks, which only stated reality and nothing else, be considered as intervention in your domestic affairs?

3. The other point concerns the journalists in the southern Persian Gulf countries. We want to tell you that throughout the rule of the shah, when the United States imposed him on you as the regional gendarme, you had strong relations with the Iranian regime. But as soon as the Islamic revolution succeeded, you started to spread animosity toward our country merely because it freed itself of the American yoke. Throughout the eight years of war, even though you knew Saddam was an aggressor (which you confessed when the Iraqi Army occupied Kuwait) you always supported Saddam and spread as much animosity as you could toward the Islamic Republic. Now with the U.S.-concocted Abu Musa issue, you are trying to deceive public opinion in the southern Persian Gulf countries when you know that nothing new has happened in Abu Musa. You go so far in deceiving your own people that you carry front-page headlines of the baseless support from the Russian foreign minister, who visited the UAE last week and guaranteed your territorial integrity. But you do not tell the people the truth; that bankrupt Russia is in such chaos that it is leaning on Bush's rotten cane in order to preserve itself and that attaching hopes to guarantees promised by such a government is not only worthless but also a weakness. Why do you not tell the people that Iran is the most sincere of governments toward its southern neighbors and that it seeks only their affluence and independence?

You claim to defend your Arab banner while you know that this also is merely deception. If you were truly defending the Arab banner, we would have welcomed your zeal. But both we and you know that this is not so. If you have Arabic enthusiasm, then why do you not defend Palestine, an Arab territory? Why do you not defend the oppressed people of Lebanon, who are constantly victimized by the criminal Zionists? Why do you not inform public opinion of the treachery of compromise between the Arab and Israeli leaders? Why do you not reveal the treacheries that are being perpetrated against the Arab ummah? Why do you not reveal the plundering by the United States in Arab countries and namely in the southern Persian Gulf countries? Why do you not defend Libya, an Arab country, in the face of the aggressions and plots by the United States and Britain?

All this shows that you, the journalists on the other side of the Persian Gulf, have neither an Islamic nor an Arab spirit. You should learn from what happened to the Kuwaiti newspapers. The Kuwaiti papers spread animosity toward Iran as much as they could during the eight years of imposed war in support for Saddam. When Saddam started to bring their homes down on their heads, they started to apologize to Iran. They [the Kuwaiti newspapers] once again have forgotten the Islamic Republic's sincerity, and we advise you not to act as they did. Do not threaten Iran that relations will be strained and do not ask us to give up our just rights.

Wake up from your dreams and realize the fact that straining your relations with Iran is only to your detriment, while trusting this powerful country will save you from your dependence on international bandits and plunderers like America. This not only will ensure your security but will also safeguard your Arab nobility, which is being trampled on by America. Of course, if you pay attention to this point, you will see that there is a clear difference between "boasting about Arabism" and "Arabic enthusiasm."

Editorial on Improved Ties With Gulf States

NC2205165192 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 May 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Ties With GCC"]

[Text] Both the eight-year-old Iraqi-imposed war and the nine-month occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the ensuing war by the Western Allies to expel Iraq from that country had a deep impact on the security and ecological balance of the Persian Gulf area.

Having experienced how much their security can depend on factors outside of their control, the Gulf states have tried to forge various security arrangements to control or minimize their vulnerability. But any arrangement to their dismay must take Iran—the country to the north of the Persian Gulf with littoral borders extending from Iraq all the way to the Gulf of Oman—into account.

Relations with Iran have been one of the main concerns of the six GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] oil states. The Gulf Arab shaykhdoms have been distrustful of Iran's intentions. Although the intensity of this distrust has substantially dropped in the wake of improved ties between them, Iran is still something to reckon with and no solution out of this uneasy state has been produced.

The shaykhdoms have tried to deal with their security needs by amassing advanced arms, forging defense alliances with outside powers and working slowly toward a regional configuration that would take Iran's concerns into consideration.

All along, Iran believed that the security of the Persian Gulf region should be maintained by the regional countries and that outside forces should be kept out since they often contributed to increased insecurity. Iran's role in a possible Gulf security arrangement and the role of outside forces in the area dominated Mr. Velayati's recent visit to Kuwait.

The Gulf Arabs' fear of distrust of Iran is misplaced and if anything originated from their own hostile policy toward Iran. They provided Iraq with abundant material and moral supports in its war against Iran. They even tried to use opposing forces to topple the Islamic Republic, viewing it as a transient or passing phenomenon. Therefore, Iran's reaction could not but be one of reciprocating instability for Iraq's regional supporters as a tit-for-tat.

There is now a different picture. The old situation is now gone and there is no room for distrust. First of all, Iraq is defeated and the Gulf states got a taste of how unreliable it could be, something Iran had said all along. The Islamic Republic is now sufficiently secure and established and the idea of getting rid of it is a bygone thing. The Arabs have come to accept it as a reality, just as the Islamic Republic has come to view them so.

Moreover, the present government's foreign policy has been one of reconciliating and establishing friendly ties with nonhostile countries, mostly irrespective of their past policies toward Iran. Thus Persian Gulf states should seriously reevaluate their policy toward Iran with a view on realities and what it can do for them.

Gulf states are now the biggest destination for Iranian export goods, specially agricultural ones. Iran has the capacity to become an important, if not the most important, supplier of the Gulf states food needs because of its proximity to them and the low transportation costs involved. Iran can also become a major supplier of Gulf states' water needs, an issue that has been assuming more and more significance and will be the dominant issue of the next century. Karun and Bahmanud Rivers in the southern Khuzestan Province can save the shaykhdoms a lot of money and hardship with their abundant waters.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister said today in a speech opening ministerial talks with the European Community that the GCC sought to achieve understanding with Iran. He said close ties with Iran would "ensure a stable and secure Gulf... and... political and economic interests" for both sides. He also defined a number of conditions for cooperation with Iran.

Some of the conditions put forth by the Kuwaiti minister, such as respect for independence, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the region's states or honoring one another social and political systems have been already stated by Iran. But in the past there was no audience in the Gulf for them because of the general hostile environment against Iran. That environment is now gone.

Therefore, in view of eliminating the unfavorable conditions and the mutual potential economic and political gains to be made, the ground is well prepared for good friendship and understanding to meet their long run needs that will continue into the next century.

Commentary on Regime's Efforts in Central Asia

NC2705204092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 22 May 92

[Commentary: "The Vacuum the Islamic Republic is Trying To Fill"]

[Text] Dear listeners: After the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the independence of the former Soviet republics, the clerical regime began intense efforts to seize the opportunity to interfere in the domestic affairs of these republics by various means. Naturally, the regime's motives do not stem either from its sympathies toward the people of these republics or from its intention to create and establish friendly relations free from interference and provocation. The regime's intention is to pave the way for forming pro-Iranian groups in these republics so it can continue its obstructive and provocative policies; propagate a reactionary culture in these republics; prevent the growth and development of these republics; exploit the religious sentiments of the people of some of these republics; and portray itself as the guardian of the Muslim-inhabited republics of the former Soviet Union.

In addition, Turkey is trying to exploit its influence, position, and support by the Western countries to encourage these republics to adopt a secular democratic government. It has taken some exceptional steps in helping some countries—such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia—in these efforts and has extended many types of assistance to these republics, so much so that it has foiled many of the Islamic Republic's plans.

Nevertheless, the clerical regime has not given up its hopes or retreated from its expansionist policies. According to Velayati—the clerical regime's foreign minister—the regime intends to fill the cultural and economic vacuum created in the area following the Soviet Union's disintegration.

Can this dream be fulfilled easily? Despite the efforts of Turkey, the United States, the European countries, and some Arab countries to warn these republics to keep a safe distance from the Islamic Republic, will the people in these republics be fooled by the clerical regime's lies and duplicities and believe that the clergymen can help them culturally and economically and can solve their problems? We do not believe the people will be fooled. We also do not think the clerical regime can score any noteworthy successes in these efforts.

The black record of more than 13 years of clerical rule is the best reason to back this belief and proves an undeniable reality to the peoples of the Central Asian republics. These realities are: According to its own officials and heads of various economic agencies, the clerical regime is suffering through an unfavorable economic situation. Its factories are working at only one-third capacity. Its currency is worthless on the foreign exchange market. It is facing astronomic inflation. It has more than 4 million people unemployed and is facing critical conditions in the production field. Its people are facing shortages of basic needs. How can this regime, therefore, have a useful program to offer the people of the Central Asian republics? A large part of our people is facing the illiteracy problem. About 4 million children are unable to go to schools, due to the shortage of schools, and 12 million students are going to school in three turns and are studying in classes of 60-70 students. Tens and hundreds of thousands of youths await to be accepted by universities. Superstition and reactionary culture is being propagated, and opposition is expressed to advanced culture. Which, then, cultural services can this regime extend to these republics?

It is clear that the clerical regime cannot fill this vacuum and that the people of these republics have not pinned their hopes on a regime that is unable to solve its own economic and cultural problems. The question that the people of these republics ask is: If the Islamic Republic's regime is so strong and so capable of filling the vacuum and extending cultural and economic assistance, why, then, is it facing so many internal problems, and why are the masses so dissatisfied? How is it that they shed crocodile tears for the Muslims of the former Soviet republics when the Iranian masses are facing such dire conditions and when the regime has done nothing but to resort to promises, lies, and suppressions? If the regime's words conform with its deeds—and it claims to be able to extend the assistance—it would be better for it to fill the existing cultural and economic vacuum in its own country and then help others.

Undoubtedly, it will not be long before the clerical regime is further defeated. The closer it goes to these republics, the more they will become aware of its inhuman and lying nature, and they will confront its subversions, interventions, and chaos-spreading acts.

Commentary Views Nagorno-Karabakh Crisis

NC2305142492 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 May 92 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "Tehran Talks—Vanguard of Stability in Caucasus"]

[Excerpts] The two-day visit by the heads of Armenia and Azerbaijan to Tehran and their meetings with high-level officials ended. After reaching a preliminary agreement about resolving mutual hostilities in the long-festering crisis of Nagorno-Karabakh and after signing agreements with Iran for broadening economic, cultural, political, and parliamentary relations, the Yerevan and Baku leaders left Tehran yesterday afternoon.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and acting Azerbaijani President Yakub Mamedov were invited by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with the objective of establishing closer contact between the leaders of the two republics and strengthening the path to a political solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

This crisis has been blazing in the region for at least four years, dragging both sides' youthful forces into the valley of death. Even though this visit can be considered to continue Iran's earlier mediation missions, the high-level meeting renders it a turning point in the assignment. [passage omitted]

From the start of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, the Russians have never taken a logical or sensible position. Most political observers in informed circles believe the Kremlin is the crisis' catalyst. They believe that, even today, the Russians seek to keep the various nationalities of Central Asia subservient to the Kremlin, and they welcome any flashpoints in the vast region.

The Russians believe the young Central Asian republics have not consolidated their political identity and require Moscow's close cooperation to ensure their stability, peace, security, and economy and that this will be the prelude to their dependence. [passage omitted]

Thus, the four-year long confrontation between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians and the dissipation of most of the human and economic resources of the warring sides has made them realize they can coexist in an atmosphere of trust and good neighborliness and end the animosity that has its roots in ties with the powers of world arrogance. They can then forge new ties based on reciprocal respect and nonintervention in one another's affairs. The two warring sides believe the Tehran ties are the precursor of such ties.

Further on Azerbaijan-Armenia Events

NC2805155992 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 May 92 p 15

[Dr. Mohammad Baqer Sadri commentary: "Shusha—A Stab in the Back"]

[Text] The Armenian occupation of Shusha and Armenian efforts to control all of Karabakh not only speak of a planned program to sever Karabakh from Azerbaijan and to join it with Armenia but are tantamount to a stab in the back of peace and reconciliation efforts.

According to the document signed by both sides after lengthy efforts by our esteemed deputy foreign minister to Baku, Yerevan, and Karabakh, neither side was to attack any city or village inside Karabakh. One week after the heads of Azerbaijan and Armenia signed this pact—with the mediation of our esteemed president—and left Tehran, Shusha, the second largest city in Karabakh, was occupied by extremist Armenian forces.

For some time now, Western news and political circles have been discussing dismembering Azerbaijan and handing Karabakh over to Armenia. After a great deal of ranting and raving, it seems that Turkey has ultimately given in to fully implementing the West's policies. We believe this, because we are neither hearing its rantings or ravings any longer nor are they saying much about mobilizing its forces against Armenia.

Our country's reaction to the occupation of Shusha was much more logical than Turkey's. We sent our deputy foreign minister to the area twice. Turkey spoke to Bush twice via telephone. Even though both sides wanted the Karabakh problem to be referred to the UN Security Council, if this step is not taken in a deliberate and calculated manner, it may further exacerbate the crisis. The bitter dismemberment of Yugoslavia and its republics and the more bitter incidents that are now occurring in Bosnia-Hercegovina show that the Security Council and European efforts cannot help resolve ethnic and religious crises, especially when this crisis has Muslims on the one side and Christians on the other. I do not like to characterize the bitter incidents in Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Karabakh as a crusade. Unfortunately, all facts show that they are. On the day the Federal Army was to withdraw from Sarajevo, a plot to abduct the Bosnian president was hatched, and exactly when the mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran were starting to bear fruit, Shusha was occupied by Armenian forces. Elements in the West and in the Vatican are trying to get as much as possible out of each crisis. When such intentions exist, can one not say that some people want to turn the wars in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Karabakh into a type of crusade?

What is the purpose of the weapons piled up in Karabakh and placed at the disposal of the Armenians?

Why were there hundreds of European and UN mediators shuttling back and forth in the crisis of Slovenia and Croatia? Why were the number of mediators in the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis so much lower, and why did things move at a much slower pace, so much so that Serbian forces stole the European monitoring forces' jeep and the Armenian forces occupied Shusha overnight? The incidents in Bosnia-Hercegovina are actually the other side of the coin of the incidents in Karabakh.

Alas, there are those in the Islamic world trying to maintain their position after the oil war in the Persian Gulf and be detached from what is happening in other regions. The Islamic Conference Organization is only capable of issuing a few statements.

A large number of Arab countries are involved in the process of compromise and reconciliation; the other part is working hand-in-hand with the West in building a new world order. In the midst of all this, while drawing everyone's attention to the plan for dismembering Karabakh from Azerbaijan, we warn that overt and covert hands are trying to exacerbate the Karabakh crisis to ultimately plunge the region into an extensive conflict. Those who want to blow up the powder keg on the northern borders of our country are entertaining wretched thoughts. And this calls for intelligence and alertness and, more important yet, for national unity and concordance so that all plots can be thwarted. We should be alert, since the Karabakh incidents can be just the beginning of other incidents.

Dailies Cited on Situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD2605111592 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday commented on the massacre of Muslims in

Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) by Serbs and cautioned against dislocation of Muslims in the heart of Europe.

The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" wrote that the world seems to have become a spectator to the Serbian aggression on Bosnian Muslims, taking no practical step to stop the bloodshed.

The Security Council is not as serious as it should be in implementing the articles of its resolution calling for withdrawal of the Serbian forces from B-H. The United Nations recalls its peace keeping forces from B-H under the pretext of insecurity. It seems the West implicitly favors the massacre and suppression of Muslims.

The Muslims have the final say in the issue and should press the aggressors to stop massacre of the Muslims and secure their interests and rights.

Silence of Muslims over the issue and failure to act effectively, will give the West and enemies of Islam a chance to pursue their own ominous goals through sacrificing the life, property and dignity of Muslims.

Muslim countries should unite against the enemy and guarantee the social, economic and cultural security of Muslims, provide shelter to the Bosnian Muslims and make Serbians halt their greed for aggression.

The Serbs must think twice about their "disgraceful and shameless acts," must compensate the damage on property of the Bosnian Muslims, accept the consequences of their atrocities and the prices they have to pay in future, concluded JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Commenting on the same subject, the editorial in the English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" said that the Western countries have apparently embarked on a collaborative strategy to weaken and discredit Belgrade.

"Barring a change in the policies of Belgrade, the new Yugoslavia could likewise be denied international recognition, its membership in the United Nations and other multilateral institutions suspended and challenged, and tough economic sanctions imposed."

"While the recent moves are laudatory...they are nevertheless unlikely to lead to a quick end to the fighting."

Referring to the Serbian and Croat plans to carve up Bosnia, it said that the Muslims, the republic's largest ethnic group, "are currently faced with the bleak prospect of being left without a homeland."

The daily also referred to cultural vandalism of Serbs and indiscriminate shelling of mosques, churches, hotels and Islamic monuments in three Bosnian cities which are the principal cultural centers in the Balkans. "There are enough indications to conclude that the attacks on these sites were deliberate."

The editorial said in conclusion "the relative passivity of the West serves only to reinforce the observation that these countries have consistently pursued hostile policies towards the Muslims. It is increasingly becoming evident that the imposition of more forceful actions to halt the aggressions of the warring sides is not, as of yet, serving European and American interests. Ensuring the dislocation of the Muslims and erasing the last vestiges of Muslim glory in the heart of Europe evidently is."

'Plight' of Muslims in Bosnia Viewed

LD2305175492 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—In a commentary on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina Saturday the Persian daily 'JAHAN-E ISLAM' (THE MUSLIM WORLD) deplored what it termed the international indifference towards the plight of Muslims in Bosnia.

Blaming also the Muslim world for showing only a very belated reaction to the situation in the form of a decision by the organization of the Islamic conference, the daily predicted continued war in the region even after the ouster of the Serbs since, it argued, the Serbs are able to embroil the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina with any war under whatever pretext in the future.

The commentary noted that Europe has deliberately averted any well-defined declaration of its stance to the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina on the basis of which one might judge whether or not it was acting consistent with its declared position towards the issue:

"The cruel killing of Slavonic Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina continues unabatedly while the country has apparently been recognized by the European Community and the United States as an independent country. Why the killings do not cease is a question for which no satisfactory answer has yet been offered.

"The presence in Bosnia-Hercegovina of the three ethnic communities, Serbians, Croatians, and Muslims with a unhomogenous population distribution has offered an excuse to the Serbian Government to exert pressure on the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina with the idea of eventually annexing the Serbian section of that country.

"The Federal Army having been a revamped entity of the remainder of the Yugoslav Armed Forces is at the exclusive service of the Serbian Government. It demonstrates some degree of brutality in dealing with Muslims, thus far having taken hostage thousands of Muslim women and children, without talks for securing their release having been unsuccessful yet.

"The Serbian Government has turned a deaf ear to the universal opinion for stopping its military invasion of Bosnia-Hercegovina. At one point it even entered into negotiations with the Croatians—its adamantine enemies who fought a long battle to win Croatia's independence—in a bid to divide Bosnia-Hercegovina between the Serbians and the Croatians.

"In the midst of that Muslims are being oppressed, pressurized and besieged, though it seems that the administration of Izetbegovic and the Muslim people of Bosnia are determined enough to defend the territorial integrity of their country, which is the reason why resistance against invasion has been held out. But the question that continually emerges is that in the face of the military superiority of the Serbians and the Federal Army for how long Muslims will be able to hold out in their struggle.

"In an effort to find an answer to that question observers look to the international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Community, and the United States to see if they will fulfill their international obligations for stopping the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"If Bosnia-Hercegovina has been justly recognized why should Serbia be allowed to do anything against its integrity? To say that civil wars in Yugoslavia have historical precedence would be irrelevant, for there is no Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, since it has been divided according to ethnic and geographical considerations. That the Serbians are trying to create a larger Serbia by annexing other lands which used to be part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a fruitless effort and will not bear results for the same reason that the federative Yugoslavia did not hold out.

"The heavy cost of that defeat, however, should not be burdened by the Muslims of Bosnia who for various reasons were the weakest component of the Federal Government. The imbalance of the forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina is worse than the invasion of the Serbians, which makes it incumbent on Europe to consider more immediate measures lest the world will witness a grave human disaster because of the chauvenistic and fanatic feelings of the Serbians in Bosnia.

"It seems Europe now faces a real ethnic challenge in Eastern Europe. How it will deal with the problem will determine its role in the international developments.

"News agencies say Europe is at the threshold of some sort of population displacement in the form of migrating refugees, the most significant since World War II.

"Already the torrent of refugees from Bosnia is flowing out, and as the war drags on there will be more refugees. The Serbians even do not allow the Red Cross to supply first aid and basic foods and medicine to the Muslim refugees of Bosnia. In the wake of the killing of one Red Cross agent the rest of the Red Cross personnel feel their lives are being threatened.

"On the basis of the more recent developments in Bosnia, and also with regard to the indifference of the rest of Europe to what is happening in Bosnia it is not altogether unlikely that the Serbians will eventually attain their carefully-planned goals which development will be a threat to the integrity of Bosnia which only recently attained her independence. The development seems more likely especially because the Serbs and the Croats, that is inherent enemies, have been tempted to dismember Bosnia and annex parts of it to their own territory, which is a great threat.

"Surprisingly enough the Muslim world has not done anything yet for stopping the invasion of the Serbs, although the decision by the organization of the Islamic Conference was a forward-looking, albeit belated and with limited impact, measure.

"In fact the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina are getting the unkind side of the Westerners' face while it supported the Croats and compelled the Serbs to evacuate that republic for whatever reason.

"Serbia is not in a situation to hold out its resistance in the event it is really pressurized by the European Community or the United States. But why neither Europe nor the United States do anything substantial to check the invasion of Bosnia-Hercegovina is a question widely asked by all relatively impartial circles.

"Apparently the European governments have not yet offered any answer to that question on the basis of which we can conclude that the European Community has not discriminated against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the Croats.

"But even though some day the Serbian Government, under increasing external pressure, should get out of Bosnia-Hercegovina there will yet be another potential threat against the Muslims of Bosnia, that is the presence of a group of armed Serbs within the political territory of Bosnia. The merging of the regular armed forces of the Serbian race of the Federal Army with the Serbian militia will be another measure for violating the integrity of Bosnia.

"The getting out of Serbia from Bosnia will not essentially mean an end to the state of war, since the Serbs are able to embroil Muslims in another war under different pretexts.

"On that basis it seems the world in its entirety shoulders a responsibility with respect to the complex light of Muslims of Serbia which warrants a confident and immediate action so that the most problematic center of insecurity in that part of the world will have peace and security.

"Is the world really conscious of its historical responsibility? More importantly, is it willing and ready to act according to its obligations?

"The symptoms, at least in Bosnia-Hercegovina, are not encouraging."

Nepal

Ruling Party Wins Key Seats in Elections

Wins Mayoral Positions in Capital

BK3105090392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 31 (AFP)—The second phase of local council elections began Sunday with the announcement that the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) had won the positions of mayor and deputy mayor in the capital.

Some six million voters were expected to cast their ballots to elect mayors, deputy mayors and local councillors in 25 municipalities as well as for 22,000 village council posts, Chief Election Commissioner Surya Prasad Shrestha said.

"After the Kathmandu town elections, the most prestigious contest is due to take place in Sunsari, (southeast of Kathmandu,) where Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has gone in a helicopter to exercise his franchise in his home town," an official said.

Results have so far been announced for 25 percent of the 2,030 villages and 11 cities where elections were held under the first phase of balloting and show the NC leading with more than 60 percent of votes, well ahead of the Nepal Communist Party (Unity Centre) (NCP-UC) and the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), political observers here said.

Makes 'Impressive' Gains

BK2905085792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 29 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress (NC) made impressive gains in Thursday's local council elections, early results announced by the Election Commission showed Friday.

The NC captured such places as Banepa, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Ilam, 360 kilometres (225 miles) northeast of here and Dhankuta, 280 kilometres (175 miles) in the same direction, a stronghold of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist).

In Kathmandu, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) candidate for mayor Rajendra Shrestha was slugging it out with Prem Lal Singh of the NC.

At Banepa more than 15,000 Nepali Congress activists staged a victory march Friday led by the newly elected mayor and deputy mayor, offical sources said.

High Local Turnout; 2 Dead

BK2805111892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 28 (AFP)—More than 60 percent of voters in Kathmandu Township had cast ballots by noon Thursday in nationwide local elections, an Election Commission official said, but clashes reportedly left two dead.

"Polling was brisk and peaceful" in and around the Nepalese capital. "But reports coming from districts outside suggested that in about 15 places polling has been postponed because of rows between different political party activists, resulting in two deaths", the official said.

Police were forced to fire blanks, but no one was injured, to break up poll-related disturbances in Saptari district, 180 kilometres (115 miles) and Dhanusa, 240 kilometres (150 miles) southeast of here, the official said.

In Kallai, 220 kilometres (140 miles) southwest of here, a confrontation between activists of the ruling Nepali Congress and the pro-Indian Nepal Sadbhvana Party caused a 24-hour postponement in balloting, he added.

Voting got underway peacefully for new mayors and councillors in Kathmandu and 35 other municipalities in Nepal, another official said.

Polling got underway at 7 a.m. (0115 GMT) with eager voters in the capital seen lining up an hour earlier outside some of the 75 polling stations that were put under police guard.

Other police, in touch via walkie-talkies, patrolled the streets.

All traffic, except for buses and government vehicles, was banned until late afternoon in an effort to prevent proxy voters from being brought into the capital from outside districts.

The Election Commission official said there are 12 million eligible voters in Nepal. More than 22,000 municipal posts, including 11 mayors and thousands of village-level jobs, were up for grabs Thursday, with an additional 24,000 posts, including 25 mayors, to be filled in polling Sunday.

The total number of candidates for both days is 350,000.

Closely watched Thursday was the Kathmandu mayoral race, pitting Nepali Congress candidate P. L. Singh against Nepal Communist Party (Marxist and Leninist) hopeful Rajendra Shrestha.

Finland To Open Permanent Embassy

BK3005081492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 30 (AFP)—Finland has decided to establish a permanent embassy in Kathmandu from June 1, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry announced Saturday.

Kalevi Anti, counsellor for technical cooperation, is to be charge d'affairs of the mission, it said.

The Finnish ambassador to India, Marjattaa Rasi, who is also accredited to Nepal, will remain based in New Delhi.

Nepal is one of the main beneficiaries of Finnish development aid, particulary in forestry, telecommunications and power supply.

Pakistan

Sharif Accuses India of Interference in Sindh

BK3005162892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said there is a clear consensus that action should be taken against criminals in Sindh province. Talking to newsmen in his chamber at Parliament house in Islamabad this evening, he said nobody has opposed the action. As a democratically-elected government, we have brought the matter in the National Assembly for the first time, where there was a threadbare discussion on the issue and a consensus was developed that action must be taken against terrorists, antisocial elements, and criminals. He said that if anybody has any reservations, the government would try to remove them. He said after the budget session, he will go to Sindh province, meet the people from all walks of life, and remove reservations, if any. The government has taken this action in the best interest of the country and it was not aimed at any group or party. He said the decision of the government has been welcomed by the public at large. This action was needed very badly and the reaction of the people to it has been satisfactory and they have supported it.

To a question, the prime minister said the government has documentary proof that there was interference in Sindh from across the border. The government has brought this matter to the notice of the Indian Government and has also written to the United Nations and some other friendly countries who wanted to see peace and stability in this region. A delegation would soon be sent to these countries to brief them about how India was interfering in our internal affairs.

Answering a question about the expulsion of each other's diplomats by India and Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan wanted to improve the relations. Such things are counterproductive in improving relations.

To another question, the prime minister said the government has decided to publish the list of those people who got their loans written off. Such people are not entitled to any concession, whether they are in government or outside.

Sharif Urges Pressure To End Kashmir Repression

BK3105151892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the indigenous uprising of the Kashmiri people is a struggle for their right to self-determination and it is incorrect to give it a religious color. In an interview with the Egyptian MAIL, the prime minister made it clear that the Kashmir problem is not a dispute between Muslims and Hindus, rather it is a movement like others for the attainment of the right of self-determination. Pakistan has always supported the Kashmiris' right to self-determination as pledged to them in United Nations resolutions of 1948 and 1949. He said he believed that the relevant UN resolutions provide the necessary legal framework and methodology to find a just and fair resolution of the issue. He called upon the world community to use its influence on India to bring an immediate end to the inhuman repression in Kashmir and to allow the Kashmiris to decide their future through exercise of their right to self-determination.

Editorial Criticizes Indian Suspension of Talks

BK3005143792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 May 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Learning Restraint"]

[Text] Unfortunate is the only way to describe Delhi's decision to cancel the sixth round of secretaries-level talks between India and Pakistan. Scheduled for May 31, the talks were called off in retaliation to Pakistan's declaration of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad as persona non grata. In a tit-for-tat move, Delhi expelled two Pakistani diplomats from India. But its move to halt the Indo-Pakistan dialogue seems a rather disproportionate response. It doesn't take much to sour the long troubled relationship between the two countries. As a former Indian foreign secretary once put it, this relationship has been an exceedingly accident-prone one. That being so, it makes it all the more necessary to learn to exercise restraint and keep responses within the range of reason. This, however, is not what Delhi has demonstrated. And it seems that hardline lobbies have had something to do with this. Initial news reports spoke of the possibility of the Indo-Pak dialogue going ahead despite the row over the Indian diplomat-cum-spy. South Block [parliamentarians of India's ruling party] is said to have urged the Indian Government to go ahead. But a combination of factors seem to have led the Narasimha Rao government in the opposite direction.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) issued strident calls for the cancellation of the talks and probably orchestrated the demonstrations that took place outside Pakistan's High Commission in Delhi. Meanwhile the Indian prime minister also appeared to come under pressure from other hawkish lobbies. He is then believed to have taken the decision personally to cancel the parleys.

The decision is unfortunate because it is precisely when tensions run high and tempers flare that talks are most necessary. Closing the door on dialogue at such a time in fact raises justifiable apprehensions on the other side about the real intentions of the move. And that is what has happened. With a meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries planned in Rio, during the Earth Summit, in mid-June, Pakistan has expressed the hope that this will go ahead. A Foreign Office spokesman said that he hoped that "the recent unfortunate events disturbing Indo-Pakistan relations would not cast a shadow over the process of dialogue" between the two countries now scheduled at the highest level for Rio. India should respond positively to these signals and seek to put the diplomats row behind it. But if Delhi continues to hang the vital process of dialogue on the fate of a single diplomat, questions would certainly arise about the seriousness of Indian intentions. After all, in the case of other nations having adversarial relationships, far more serious incidents have not broken down the process of dialogue.

Sharif on Emergence of 'Powerful Islamic Bloc'

BK3005042392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that with the resolution of the Afghanistan crisis and the liberation of the Central Asian Muslim Republics, a very strong and powerful Muslim bloc would emerge in the region. Addressing a congregation in Lahore last night, he said after 14 years of struggle of mojahedin, an Islamic government has been installed in Afghanistan and Pakistan has very cordial relations with this government. He said although Afghanistan was Pakistan's neighbor, relations between the two countries had never been warm and cordial. With the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan, ties between the two countries have become very friendly.

The prime minister hoped friendship between the two countries would further grow in future and both would make rapid progress in all fields. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said success of mojahedin has been achieved due to their great sacrifices. He added late General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his colleagues also rendered innumerable services for the success of Afghan jehad. The prime minister said Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi visited Pakistan to express his gratitude for extending diplomatic, political and moral support in their struggle against a former superpower—the Soviet Union.

The prime minister hoped that like the solution of the Afghan crisis, Kashmir will also be liberated from the clutches of Indian domination.

About national affairs, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that he is firm in his determination to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state. He said as a result of the policies being implemented by his government, people will very soon feel a qualitative change in their life for which the nation will have to face the present challenges with courage, patience, and restraint. The prime minister said the Islamic Democratic Alliance government is pursuing policies which aim at eliminating poverty and unemployment and solving people's social-economic problems. He hoped that these policies will lead us to great results after sometime.

Referring to the privatization policy, he said the government has given those industrial units to the private sector which were running at a loss and now these units will earn profit and pay taxes to the national exchequer. However, the income earned by the promotion of these industrial units will be used for repaying foreign debts and strengthening national defense. The prime minister said his decision to construct motorways in the country aims at providing a solid industrial infrastructure which will improve poor people's conditions and the nation will march toward the path of prosperity. He added that his opponents are creating obstacles in his path because they know that his success will deny them any place in the country's politics. However, he will continue implementing these policies.

The prime minister said the present government wants to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed youth through the self-employment scheme which will at last eliminate unemployment from the society within two to three years. He said the present inflationary trend is due to the heavy domestic and international debts. He said his government will be successful in repaying these debts in a minimum amount of time after which the prices will come down and inflation will be fully brought under control.

Nuclear Program Said Only for 'Peaceful Purposes'

BK3105161692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that the indigenous uprising of the Kashmiri people is a struggle for their right to self-determination and it is incorrect to give it a religious coloring. In an interview with the EGYPTIAN MAIL, the prime minister made it clear that the Kashmir problem is not a dispute between Muslims and Hindus, but a movement for attaining the right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he will raise the Kashmir issue during a meeting with the Egyptian president at the forthcoming Earth Summit, the prime minister said that he definitely will draw his attention to the serious violations of human rights by Indian forces in Kashmir. He will request that the Egyptian leader use his influence on India in favor of the Kashmiri people.

About Pakistan's nuclear program, Nawaz Sharif reiterated that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb nor does it intend to manufacture one. The country's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. Pakistan is fully determined to check the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and Islamabad is willing to accept any fair and nondiscriminatory regional solution to this problem.

Pakistan has achieved a peaceful technical capability in the nuclear field to develop its nuclear program, and in view of its determination to check the proliferation of nuclear weapons, Islamabad will not supply sensitive technology to any third country. Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan has been working consistently toward checking nuclear proliferation and promoting the process to reduce conventional arms in South Asia ever since India exploded its nuclear device in 1974. He regretted that India has adopted a negative attitude to all these proposals. He said that his 6 June 1991 proposal for convening a five-member conference to check nuclear proliferation in the region was the latest proposal forwarded by Pakistan, but India also did not respond positively to that proposal.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem, the prime minister expressed the hope that mutual differences will be resolved within the current Islamic system under the leadership of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. He said that the time has come now for the United Nations to play its role in the repatriation of refugees and the reconstruction of war-ravaged Afghanistan.

About the economic reforms initiated by his government, the prime minister said that special attention has been paid to privatization, ending unnecessary control of the government and encouraging the private sector to promote investment and economic progress. The objective of Pakistan's economic reforms is to further open up the economy and increase the role and activity of the private sector.

Sharif, Khan Condemn Mojaddedi Attack

BK2905162592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif have expressed their relief that Professor Mojaddedi and his delegation landed safely after a rocket attack on their aircraft. In their separate messages to the Afghan president, the Pakistani leaders condemned this cowardly act of sabotage. The president said the attack was not only aimed against the person of Professor Mojaddedi, but also against the peace process in Afghanistan. The prime minister said on behalf the government and people of Pakistan, he strongly condemns this act of terrorism. Both Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif prayed for good health and long life of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and for peace and prosperity of the brotherly Afghan people.

Air Force Rejects Mirage, Leans Toward Sukhoi

BK3005143592 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 May 92 pp 1, 13

[By M.A. Niazi]

[Text] Lahore—The Pakistan Air Force [PAF] has decided to opt out of the proposed Mirage 2000 deal, and is inclining towards the Russian Sukhoi 27, which has satisfied the evaluation team which recently made a low-profile visit to Russia in the ongoing search for a replacement for the F16.

The SU-27 has attracted enough attention from the PAF for a rough deal to have been chalked out on the basis of the evaluation team's report, even before the financial team follow-up. The proposal is for the induction of 60 Su-27s with an option for 40 more over six to eight years with immediate transfer of rebuild technology and ultimately production capacity. That the PAF was considering the Su-27 was first reported in THE NATION on February 5.

Meanwhile the $1.6 billion Mirage deal is probably off from the PAF point of view, though a formal intimation to France has not yet gone through. The Mirage proposal was initially for 40 planes but the recent statement by French Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade during his visit to Pakistan that a 20-plane deal was being considered revealed that all was not well with the deal. However, other procurements from France such as submarines and high-altitude radars are still very much on the cards.

This is despite the French offer of credit terms described as "very favourable." The problem after the U.S. aid cut off was to find an easily available substitute, not just for the long-term needs of the PAF, but also to take the place of the minimum of one squadron of F16s that should have been inducted by now, to replace aging Mirage-3s and F6s due to go out of service.

The Mirage 2000 is rated quite highly as a multipurpose aircraft, but it is also the most expensive on earth (at $40 million apiece compared to the F16, which is $20 million-plus). Mainly for this reason, major buyers, starting with the French Air Force itself, and including India, have not followed options or made reorders. Other interested air forces have backed off leaving only Taiwan at the moment considering a purchase.

The PAF was also unenthusiastic about the Mirage, again because expense did not match performance, while the upgraded version the PAF was most interested in, the Mirage 2000e, will not be available until 1995, instead of this year. For immediate needs, the French were offering the Mirage 2000e, whose radar is not as good as those of the 2000e and the F16, including used planes from French Air Force Squadrons.

On the other hand, it is understood that the Su-27 will cost only $10 million apiece. For a plane that went into service as recently as 1981 and which compares quite well with the F16, that is cheap. It would also mean the PAF could acquire 100 plans for $1 billion. At the same time, it has been learnt that the Prime Minister personally ensured that the installments for the 60 F16s, which were never delivered because of the aid cut-off, continue to be paid. The PAF was inclined to give up the F16 money as a bad deal, but the PM's decision indicates that the possibility of a compromise with the USA is not over. However, F16s would then come in addition to Su27s or whatever other planes the PAF might buy.

Quite apart from that, however, the Russians are badly strapped for hard currency, and though the evaluation team seemed upbeat about the chances of the Russians giving Pakistan the sort of credit terms it wants, that is not really their area of competence. Whether the Russians can afford to give Pakistan the sort of credit they want is a matter for the experts to thrash out.

The fact that the Russians have offered used planes for immediate needs is actually an advantage of the PAF in the case of ex-Soviet technology. All equipement for the Soviet Armed Forces, from hand weapons to aeroplanes, was designed in two versions: the regular version, which was standard issue for the Soviet forces, and a simplified, stripped-down version, known as the "monkey" version. The "monkey" version was meant for wartime production in large quantities, sacrificing sophistication as Soviet military doctrine emphasises quantity over quality. The "monkey" version was also the export version, because the Soviets did not trust even friendly countries to maintain weapons technology secrecy.

The Su-27 has never been exported, but a "monkey" version will exist as a matter of course. However, used planes supplied will be the regular version, and it will be then impossible for the Russian to palm off new "monkey" versions, even if they wanted to.

Another question mark over the Su-27 was the report of problems with the airframe, which was supposed to make the plane unstable. However, the evaluation team indicated that that problem had now been overcome by a simple modification. Also under consideration is the MiG-29, though the fact that it is an older plane, has less range, and is already in service with India, count against it. However, the chances are that the PAF will go for a Russian plane, mainly because of cost-effectiveness. With India, formerly a close associate of the USSR, considering F16s, a mirror-image reversal of suppliers might well take place, one of the most impressive signs that the cold war is really over indeed.

Restrictions Imposed Along Indian Border

BK3005162692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The district magistrate of Thar has imposed restrictions on the movement of people from dusk to dawn in the revenue districts of Diplo, Mithi, Nagar Parkar, and Chakaro under Thar district up to 15 kms along the international border under Article 144 of the Constitution. It is aimed at providing security to life and property of people, enforce law and order, and do away with the activities of antisocial elements who can escape across the border after committing acts of sabotage. The order which comes into effect immediately will be in force for two months.

Curfew, Restrictions Imposed in Sukkur, Shikarpur

BK3105164492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The district magistrate of Sukkur has clamped a 24-hour curfew along an 8-kilometer area adjoining the border in the district. A dusk to dawn curfew has also been imposed in the district in a radius of 25 km from the border. The curfew orders, which come into force with immediate effect, will continue for 60 days. The people living in the areas have been asked to strictly follow the curfew regulations.

The district magistrate of Shikarpur has imposed restrictions [words indistinct] on the movement of pedestrians and vehicles of any kind from 1800 [1300 GMT] in the evening to 0600 in the morning under Article 144 of the Constitution. The order, which comes into effect immediately, will be in force for 60 days.

Ten Killed in Gilgit Shooting; Curfew Imposed

BK0106030092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas issued a press note in Islamabad last night saying that unidentified miscreants shot dead a leader of a certain school of thought in Gilgit yesterday morning following indiscriminate shooting in the city. The situation has worsened in the afternoon. The press note said the local administration tried to control the situation through massive patrols by police and Frontier Constabulary forces. Later, the Army was called in to assist the local administration and curfew was imposed in the city. The press note said the situation is now under control and that 10 people were killed and seven injured in the incident.

Sri Lanka

Major Offensive Launched Against LTTE Forces

Troops Overrun 3 LTTE Bases

BK2905125092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Latest reports from the northern battle front received by LANKAPUVATH say that the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] sea Tiger bases on the northern coast of Jaffna in the Velvettiturai area were destroyed in the land, sea, and air operations launched by the security forces yesterday. Government troops also overran three LTTE bases in the northeastern Mullaitivu District after surrounding them. The Air Force destroyed several vehicles carrying terrorists, including one Pajero camouflage vehicle, a double [word indistinct], and a tractor. The three service commanders—Army Commander Lieutenant General Cecil Waidiyaratne, Air Force Chief Air Marshal Terrence Gunawardene, and Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando—are directing operations from Jaffna.

Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that at Vavuniya, government troops had moved from their forward defense locality and were making a major thrust forward toward Mankulam on the main Mannar-Medawachchiya road. Colonel Sarath Munasinghe of the Joint Operations Command told pressmen at the weekly Cabinet press briefing yesterday that the army commenced a limited operation southeast of Palali in Jaffna in the early hours of yesterday morning to expand the forward defense locality to the Palali Camp. He said the curfew in the peninsula was lifted on Wednesday evening and the current operations supported by air cover may continue for 48 hours. He added that details were not available of the operation and said troops have not suffered any casualty.

Batticaloa Battle Claims 27 Soldiers

BK2905162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 27 soldiers were killed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] rebels when they ambushed an Army picket at the Mankulam road junction in Batticaloa District this morning. The military officials said six soldiers were wounded in the battle, which lasted about one and a half hours.

Meanwhile, government troops have expanded the area controlled by them in and around Palali airbase by 12 square km. They also destroyed an LTTE radar station and a base for their sea-borne operations on the Velvettiturai coast in yesterday's operations. Forty-eight rebels and nine soldiers were killed in the fighting.

Operation Detailed

BK3005115292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Fifty-eight terrorists were killed and an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] radar station on the northern coast of Jaffna, a sea-mine factory, and five bases were reported destroyed on Thursday [28 May] in a massive security forces onslaught on the LTTE. The force captured three terrorist bases in Mullaittivu. Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that a large quantity of weapons including Johny mines, [words indistinct] vehicles were also captured or destroyed. Hundreds of soldiers of Operation (Olwen) moved forward from the outer perimeter of the Palali military base in Jaffna backed by strong armor including T-55 tanks and air and sea cover, moving swiftly east and the northern coast of Jaffna where the LTTE offered resistance near Tondaimanar village.

Government troops engaged the terrorists in battle, killing many of them, including 150, who jumped in the Tondaimanar Lagoon with their gunshot injuries to escape from the pursuing troops. By end of the day, the security forces extended their forward defense locality by 12 square km east of the Palali military base. Thirty-eight terrorists were confirmed killed in the fighting in Tondaimanar. Eight soldiers were killed in action, while 20 were wounded.

At (Silawattu), south of Mullaittivu, in Operation Satawatta—Seven Round—ground troops backed by T-55 tanks, heavy artillery, air and sea cover moved to a mine field and overran three LTTE bases after overcoming terrorist resistance. Military sources said the terrorists were surrounded by infantry and armored [troops]. Twenty terrorists were killed in Mullaittivu in the fighting and a large number wounded. Fighting is still continuing at Mullaittivu.

Update on Continuing Offensive

BK3105165292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Colombo, May 31 (AFP)—Tamil rebels killed 20 more soldiers and lost 125 of their own troops in the latest bout of ethnic bloodletting raging in Sri Lanka for the fourth straight day Sunday, officials said.

The combined air, sea, and land attacks against positions of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have left an estimated 250 guerrillas as well as 67 security personnel dead, military figures showed.

Heavily armed ground troops backed by helicopter gunships and T-55 tanks pounded LTTE bunkers just outside the main Palaly airbase in the northern Jaffna Peninsula Thursday, triggering the latest fighting.

Security forces launched simultaneous attacks against jungle hideouts of the Tiger militants in the sprawling northern Wanni sector of the mainland.

A military statement said overnight fighting outside Palaly had left at least 75 guerrillas dead while 50 rebels were killed in the Wanni sector, raising the LTTE death toll to 250 during the latest drive.

Overnight fighting saw the army losing 15 frontline soldiers, including a major and a lieutenant, while trying to attack an LTTE position at Thellipillai, near Palaly and five more in Wanni, a military spokesman said.

The Air Force says it destroyed at least 10 LTTE land vehicles, including a bulldozer modified as an armoured attack vehicle, and bombed and crippled several naval bases of the rebels.

"We have captured the LTTE bunker positions that were located at the Thellipillai hospital. Our operation was essentially to expand our area of control at the Palaly base," a senior officer here said Sunday.

He expected fighting at Thellipillai to die down later Sunday.

Tamil politicians said the military offensive was more like a "warm up" before an all out assault against Jaffna town, the main heartland of the Tigers, 15 kilometers (nine miles) to the southwest of Palaly airbase.

"Unlike in the past, it looks like the Army will not withdraw from areas they have captured. This could be a step-by-step approach to take Jaffna," an anti-LTTE Tamil politician here said.

Military sources said the security force advance had taken more than the 48-hour time frame orginally planned because LTTE minefields forming part of their defences slowed down troops.

Most of the 150 soldiers wounded in fighting had their legs and hands blown off by locally manufactured small pressure mines known as Johny Buttas.

The army suffered its biggest single loss when the LTTE launched a diversionary attack Friday killing 29 soldiers, including two officers in the eastern coastal district of Batticaloa.

The latest fighting ended a near six-month lull in military operations against the LTTE and came as President Ranasinghe Premadasa visited the northern war zone of Vavuniya and called for peace.

Premadasa Sunday left Vavuniya, the northernmost town where the government still has control, after spending three days there attending to the problems of residents under a program to take the administration to the people.

"The unnecessary war should be stopped," Premadasa told a public meeting in Vavuniya over the weekend. He added that the dragging ethnic conflict should be settled through consultation, compromise and consensus.

However, dozens of Tiger guerrillas fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades at a military bunker position just outside Vavuniya Saturday in an apparent show of strength, killing two policemen and a paramilitary trooper.

The Tiger guerrillas are leading a violent campaign to establish an independent nation called Eelam in the northeast for the two million Tamil minority concentrated in the region.